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Free to Deployed Areas

Number of soldiers forced out of Army soars

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of U.S. soldiers forced out of the Army because of crimes or misconduct has soared in the past several years as the military emerges from a decade of war that put a greater focus on battle competence than on character.

Data obtained by The Associated Press shows that the number of officers who left the Army due to misconduct more than tripled in the past three years. The number of enlisted soldiers forced out for drugs, alco-

‘It is not the war that has caused this. It is the pace, and our failure to understand that at that pace, we were neglecting the tools that manage us as a profession over time.’

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey
Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman

hol, crimes and other misconduct shot up from about 5,600 in 2007, as the Iraq War peaked, to more than 11,000 last year. The data reveals stark differences be-

tween the military services and under-scores the strains that long, repeated deployments have had on the Army's soldiers and their leaders.

It also reflects the Army's rapid growth in the middle part of the decade, and the decisions to relax standards a bit to bring in and retain tens of thousands of soldiers to fill the ranks as the Pentagon added troops in Iraq and continued the fight in Afghanistan.

The Army grew to a peak of about 570,000 soldiers during the height of the wars, and soldiers represented the bulk of the troops on the battlefields compared with the other services.

SEE ARMY ON PAGE 4

Mighty Joe

There are plenty of working dogs in Afghanistan, but none quite like him | Page 4



Pfc. John Tani, an Army National Guard flight medic with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Regiment, holds a treat for Joe, a black Labrador who serves as a morale and therapy dog at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

JENNIFER HUAN/Stars and Stripes

Snowfall halts operations in Afghan desert

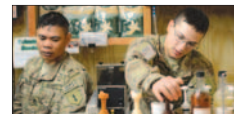
By CIO STANDIFFER
Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — A few months ago, daily temperatures spiked at 130 Fahrenheit here. But recently, soldiers slogged through freezing mud and slipped over ice on the boardwalks, while dark, low-hanging clouds made all hours of the day look like dusk.

Snow is exceedingly rare in this southern desert. For a week at the beginning of February, a handful of flurries brought operations here screeching to a halt. All the military's high-end technology was rendered useless.

First Lt. Russell Mixon, a Black Hawk pilot, said his crew had been grounded for a week — the first time weather had so severely clipped his wings in six months at Kandahar Air Field. At a coffee shack near the flight line, when asked how the weather was treating him, Spc. Andrew Rivas gave a hard stare and said, "Is that a joke?"

SEE SNOW ON PAGE 2



CIO STANDIFFER/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Amelle Aguada, left, and Spc. Andrew Rivas make coffee at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm amazed at how the State Department let those people go up so unprepared. When I went up for confirmation as ambassador to Belgium, I knew more about Belgium than the Belgians did."

— Tom Korologos, who served as U.S. ambassador to Belgium under George W. Bush

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Air Force will take 'appropriate action' over viral POW/MIA emblem photo
2. Members in Arlington gesture controversy lose their jobs
3. Government denies wrongdoing in 2012 death of Fort Bragg infant
4. People lying about military service face new peril
5. Rare heavy snowfall shutters Tokyo-area military bases for 2nd day

COMING SOON



Shifting Gears

Indian Motorcycle rollout shifts into overdrive as spring nears

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MILITARY

DOD: Insider attacks 'dangerous' as ever

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The two Americans who were killed Wednesday by Afghan soldiers were members of the Special Forces, the Army announced Friday.

Spc. John Pelham, 22, of Portland, Ore., and Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Skelt, 41, of York, Pa., were assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Fort Bragg, N.C. Their battalion was deployed to Kapisa province.

Pelham and Skelt were part of a small team of International Se-



Pelham



Skelt

curity Assistance Force advisers who were with their Afghan counterparts at the Tagab District Center when two individuals wearing Afghan National Army uniforms opened fire on them with ma-

chine guns. Pelham and Skelt were fatally wounded before the shooters were killed by coalition forces, Pentagon press secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters.

The Associated Press reported that four other ISAF members were wounded.

The number of insider attacks against international forces in Afghanistan has declined significantly since 2012, when more than 60 foreign troops were killed and many more were injured by their Afghan counterparts. But the Defense Department

believes the threat has not diminished since a number of new security measures were implemented to mitigate the problem.

"It's just as dangerous as it ever was," Kirby said.

Kirby is not aware of any new force protection measures that have been put in place since Wednesday's attack.

ISAF is conducting a joint investigation of the incident with the Afghan National Security Forces, Kirby said.

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Snow: Forecasts part science, part art

FROM FRONT PAGE

Master Sgt. Steve Fisher, one of the Air Force's battlefield weather forecasters at Kandahar, has found himself once again the bearer of bad news.

"Weather is changing constantly, and weather is doing exactly what weather does," he said. "So as we tell people, 'We're in sales, not production.'"

Fisher and fellow forecaster Staff Sgt. Rachelle Moran say their forecasts are part science and part art. They look at the copious data available, mesh together their favorite meteorological models, make their best educated guess, and watch to see if they were right.

And saying whether or not skies will be cloudy isn't good enough. If they predict a cloud ceiling of 2,000 feet and end up with a cloud ceiling of 5,000 feet, they call their forecast "100 percent wrong," because it means they gave commanders bad information about which operations would be possible.

Black Hawk pilot Maj. Darin Gaub with Task Force Demon knows firsthand what kinds of messes pilots can get into if the weather changes unexpectedly. He recalled trying to get home from a mission in eastern Afghanistan in 2006 that forced him to hop from ridge to ridge all over the region, looking for valleys clear enough to meander down, after the cloud cover settled on the tops of the mountains.

Snow and ice can easily take down a Black Hawk.

Gaub said 150 pounds of ice can build up on the copter's blades, and it takes only a few ounces to throw it out of balance. The blades can be heated electrically to melt ice away, but snow often comes with low visibility, a problem in itself.

Chinook pilot Maj. Eric Edward Artemis, who has similar tales of bad weather in the mountains, said nothing in training can completely prepare helicopter pilots for the Hindu Kush.

"There's nowhere in Korea that's anything like here. Iraq was a lot simpler," he said. In Afghanistan, he added, "the weather is deadlier than the enemy."

So instead of risking the Kandahar snows, Artemis and Gaub were grounded that week, sorting out which delayed missions would take priority once the clouds lifted and catching up on helicopter maintenance.

Mixon said his crew was similarly spending the ground time on maintenance and administrative tasks.

"It's actually been a nice chance for us to catch our breath," he said. "With the group of guys we've got out here, it's hard to get bored."

And after they cleaned the snow from the bird, he added, there was enough handy for a snowball fight.

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US warns ex-prisoners against return to battlefield

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If any of the 65 Afghan militants who were released from a former U.S. prison in Afghanistan return to the battlefield, they risk being hunted down by U.S. forces, a Pentagon official suggested Friday.

"Without getting into hypotheticals, every day we continue to go after those enemies in Afghanistan that are targeting our forces, the forces of our allies and the Afghan people, and nothing's going to change about that. And should one of these detainees rejoin the fight, they need to know that they do it at their own peril," said the Pentagon's press secretary, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby.

The 65 were released Thursday by the Afghan government over strenuous objections by the U.S. government, which says the men are dangerous Taliban fighters and bomb-makers likely to return to killing foreign forces and Afghans.

Kirby said the 65 are not considered targets at the moment.

"There's not going to be an active targeting campaign, if that's what you're asking for, to go after them," Kirby said. "That said, if they choose to return to the fight, they become legitimate enemies and legitimate targets."

NATO servicemember killed by explosion

The Associated Press

KABUL — An improvised explosive device killed a NATO servicemember in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, the U.S.-led international military coalition said.

In its statement about the attack, the coalition did not give

further details on where the incident occurred or the nationality of the servicemember killed.

In a statement commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal, the Taliban drew parallels with American forces in the country and called on Afghans to drive them out.

Taliban spokesman Qari Youssef

Ahmadi said the USSR's forces had killed innocent people and "destroyed our country," but that "all our nation stood against them and were able to defeat them."

Ahmadi said that instead of taking that as a lesson, Americans invaded — making them "the same as yesterday's Soviets."

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

AF 'disappointed' by photo

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is "disappointed" in the airman who appeared in a photo that is being circulated by her posing with her tongue in the mouth of the prisoner of war depicted on the iconic black-and-white POW/MIA emblem.

"We do not yet have all the details behind the photo, but it certainly is a concern; it's a concern any time someone shows disrespect for prisoners of war and those missing in action," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody said in a statement. "They deserve our utmost respect and we must always remember their sacrifice and the legacy they've left for us as men and women serving our nation."

"I want to make it clear that this is not a reflection of Airmen who wear this uniform; it is a case of poor judgment of one Air-

man ... to say we are disappointed would be an understatement. We are gathering all the details and will take appropriate action at the appropriate level," he said. "Our Airmen fully understand the significance of the POW/MIA flag and the sacrifice of the men and women it honors."

Second Lt. Rachelle Smith, a spokeswoman for Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., told Stars and Stripes that the airman in the photo is Staff Sgt. Cherish Byers. She is with the 92nd Security Forces Squadron stationed at Fairchild. Byers was a senior airman when the photo was taken.

An investigation into the incident was initiated Friday morning, Smith said.

Fairchild removed a comment thread about the photo from its official Facebook page after the image went viral on social media.

Joe Davis, a spokesman for the

Veterans of Foreign Wars, was not amused by the photo.

"There is nothing funny about [being] disrespectful and crude," he said.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, the chairman of the board of the National League of POW/MIA Families, also criticized it.

"We find [the photo] as appalling and disgusting [as others who have seen it], not to mention disrespectful and crude," said Mills-Griffiths, the sister of a Navy Reserve officer listed as missing over North Vietnam. "It is hard to fathom why anyone would do such a thing, and in speaking for all the families, it is offensive!"

Byers did not reply to a Stars and Stripes email requesting comment. However, her Facebook contained the following post before her account was removed: "This pic is 3 years old. I was a young airman who didn't care (not uncommon).



This photo of an airman licking a POW sign went viral on Friday.

I was young and dumb. There are much bigger issues to be worried about than a 3 year old pic that was leaked. So get off of Facebook, and go to take care of your children, because one day it may be them in my shoes, getting called out of their name for a mistake that took a few second to make but a lifetime to make up for."

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Army IDs NCOs for force reduction

The U.S. Army has identified hundreds of senior noncommissioned officers for involuntary separation as the service advances toward reducing 80,000 soldiers from its ranks by 2018.

Readers respond:

Instead of Pushing out well qualified senior NCO's Especially if they are performing at or above Army standards, how about not taking any new recruits to those MOS's.

— Timothy Byrd

There has to be a constant influx of new bodies otherwise when that current crop of senior NCOs that you want to retain all of retire ... there is a huge void to fill.

— Stuck in Kuni

They should have a board annually (even without draw-down) and look at everyone (Os & Es) that has 21 years of service. You would have to opt in to stay longer and the board would only select the best of the population (regardless of year group).

— AX01877

Nobody is safe in today's military. When they're done with you, when you've gone past your "expiration date" — look out. The Navy booted 3,000 sailors they no longer needed just a short while ago. But nobody thinks it's a big deal ... until it happens to them.

— ND52

The budget axe is swinging. That is, unless you are an unwanted, unnecessary, and redundant aircraft carrier. Then it's all gravy.

— Moonball

It's ridiculous — the time and effort and money the Army puts into growing quality NCOs, then cutting them off at the knees. Meanwhile, let's spend another \$5 million on NASCARS so we can get a crop of green recruits with no combat experience. You're doing awesome, Army!

— RangerJoe12

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/armyseparation

Paid trip to youth conference a first for Bahrain teens

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — For the first time, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America has invited two teens from Naval Support Activity Bahrain to participate in the group's annual Keystone conference, which base officials and resident teens welcomed as recognition of the base's growing family population.

Keystone is a leadership club for young people aged 14 to 18 that focuses on academic success, career preparation and community service, according to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America website. Approximately 1,800 teens nationwide attend the annual conference.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America's military outreach department has offered to pay for two teens from NSA Bahrain to participate in this year's conference, to be held April 10-13 in Anaheim, Calif., said Grace Purley, who helps run programs at the teen center.

While other military bases



Hendrick Simoes/Stars and Stripes

Teenagers on Naval Support Activity Bahrain tour the new base teen center for the first time on Aug. 22.

have received financial support for such youth conferences in the past, this is a first for teens here.

"Being that they chose Bahrain of all places is very exciting, and we really do appreciate it," said Asia Singleton, a ninth-grader.

She said teens here have fewer opportunities to participate in

sports and clubs than teens in towns in the U.S. or at other military bases overseas.

The base teen center, which recently moved to a larger space, has 90 registered teens, compared with 25 in 2012. The Keystone club has become the center's most popular program.

Singleton attributes the club's popularity to the dearth of other extracurricular activities. "It gives us something to do. ... This is pretty much our only option," she said.

Purley said the Keystone Club offers teens something they can put on their college applications. "It's important for the teens here to have those opportunities," she said.

Michelle Edens, a ninth-grader who's lived in Bahrain for two years, is excited that two teens here are going to go to the club's annual conference. "We actually got noticed," she said.

Singleton and Edens are among seven teens who have applied to go. The teen center is having them write an essay and fill out a questionnaire to compete for the spots.

Separately, the teen center has raised enough money to pay for a third teen to attend the conference. Purley said they are trying to raise enough money to send a fourth.

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MATT KNIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Japanese commercial fishing vessel Daiki Maru can be seen from Orote Point on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

US sailors rescue 10 from vessel off Guam

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Navy sailors rescued 10 fishermen from a sinking Japanese commercial fishing vessel that ran aground in a harbor in Guam on Thursday.

Two Navy MH-60S Seahawk helicopters were diverted from a training operation at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct the search and rescue operation.

According to a Navy release, the fishermen were rescued from the waters just inside the mouth of Apra Harbor, transported to Naval Hospital Guam for evaluation and later released.

The Navy, along with federal and local agencies, deployed teams Friday to assess the

environmental damage caused by the grounded vessel Daiki Maru in the outer Apra Harbor. Navy officials say they are developing a plan to tow the vessel off the reef safely and expeditiously.

The U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA are among the organizations working with the Navy to remove the vessel from the environmentally sensitive area, according to a Navy release.

The helicopter crew was from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, which maintains a 24-hour search and rescue posture in support of the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Mariana.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Joe, a Marine morale and therapy dog, walks on a treadmill in the Concussion Restoration Care Center at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

Making troops happier

Spooked by war, therapy dog finds home among wounded

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — There are plenty of working dogs at this massive, Marine-built base in Helmand province. But none quite like Joe.

The friendly 6-year-old black Labrador deployed to Afghanistan in June 2012 with the Marines to sniff out bombs. However, his handlers soon realized that the weather, the gunfire and the explosions didn't agree with Joe. He was deemed unsuitable for work and slated to go home.

Then he paid a visit to the Concussion Warrior berthing and found his calling as a therapy dog, blessed by special permission from U.S. Central Command.

Joe seems to be able to sense who is injured and how best to interact with that person, his handler and doctors at the facility said. Just last week, he came into the center and made a beeline for an injured Marine, then started giving him kisses, said Navy Lt. Stephanie Reim, a physical therapist at the extended care ward.

When patients are badly hurt, Joe will go to them and maybe lay next to them on a physical therapy table or just cuddle, said Mike Ough, a contractor who maintains replacement IED detector dogs for Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan. With other patients, Joe may try to play ball with them or run next to them on the mill during

therapy.

"He seems to engage (the patients) in the right way," Ough said.

Joe spends most of his days at the concussion care center, playing with the medical staff if there aren't any patients around. But many servicemembers — including former patients — will come in just to say hi to Joe, Reim said.

"He makes people so much happier," she said, which helps with the healing process.

Joe also spends one day a week sniffing around the Dust Off complex, so the pilots and flight medics who fly casualty evacuation missions get a chance to rub his head and give him a treat or two.

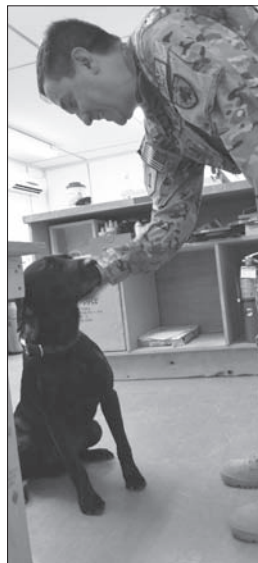
Chief Warrant Officer Darren Freyer, a pilot with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Regiment, said having Joe around "puts everybody in a good mood."

Freyer said he misses his two dogs at home, so having Joe around once a week is nice — even if they do have to watch him around food.

Pfc. John Tani, a flight medic in the same unit as Freyer, said Joe provides "a level of normalcy" for the National Guard soldiers.

Having a good-natured pup in the office brings the stress level down, Tani said, which is nice in their line of work. "We see everybody's worst day," he said.

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Chief Warrant Officer Darren Freyer, a pilot with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Regiment, plays with Joe.

Army: During 10 years of war, military struggled to balance character, capability

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I wouldn't say lack of character was tolerated in (war) theater, but the fact of the last 10 or 12 years of repeated deployments, of the high op-tempo — we might have lost focus on this issue," Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's top officer, told the AP last week. "Sometimes in the past we've overlooked character issues because of competence and commitment."

His comments mirror concerns aired by Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, several times in recent months. The ethical lapses, Dempsey said, can be attributed in some ways to 10 years at war when the military failed to properly balance character and competence.

"It is not the war that has caused this," Dempsey said. "It is the pace, and our failure to understand that at that pace, we were neglecting the tools that manage us as a profession over time."

Recent scandals

Over the past year, a series of high-profile scandals — from sexual assault and damaging leadership to mistreatment of the enemy and unauthorized spending — has dogged the military, leading to broad ethics reviews and new personnel policies.

Those scandals included the demotion of Army Gen. William "Kip" Ward for lavish, unauthorized spending; sexual misconduct charges against Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair; and episodes of gambling and drinking by other general officers.

More recently, there have been cheating allegations against Air Force nuclear missile launch officers and a massive bribery case in California that has implicated six Navy officers. Examples of troop misconduct include Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters and soldiers posing with the body parts of Afghan militants.

As a result, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and other leaders say ethics is a priority about which they now routinely lecture troops and officers. They also have undertaken initiatives aimed at identifying and dealing with problem servicemembers.

"We're paying a lot more attention to it now. We are not tolerant at all of those showing a lack of character," Odierno said. "We have to refocus ourselves so we get to where we think is the right place."

The numbers by service

In 2010, 119 Army officers were forced to leave the service because of misconduct; that number was fairly consistent with the annual totals since 2000. Last year, the number was 387. For enlisted soldiers, the numbers have seared over the past 13 years, hovering near 9,000 at the start of the decade and falling to 5,706 in 2007. Since then, the number has climbed again.

When the country needs a lot of troops on the front lines, more people with behavioral problems are allowed to come in and stay. When the military begins to shrink, commanders can be much more selective about who is kicked out and who is allowed to stay.

As the Army began to reduce its ranks in recent years toward a goal of 490,000 in 2015, leaders had been more willing and able to get rid of problem soldiers. That is likely to escalate because the latest plan would reduce the Army to 420,000 later in the decade if deep, automatic budget cuts

continue.

The Navy went through a similar process. When the decision was made to cut the size of the 370,000-strong naval force in 2004, the number of sailors who left due to misconduct and other behavior issues grew. In 2006, more than 8,400 sailors left due to conduct issues.

As the size of the Navy began to stabilize — it's now at about 323,000 — the number of problem sailors leaving also began to decline steadily, dropping each successive year to a new low of about 3,700 in 2013.

In nearly one-third of the cases each year over the time period, the problems involved drug and alcohol use. More than 1,400 cases each year involved a "serious offense" or civil or criminal court case.

The Navy has become known as the most transparent service, often quicker to publicly fire commanders for misconduct or poor leadership. But the number of Navy officers forced out has remained relatively constant, ranging from 84 to 107 annually for the past eight years. The bulk of those were for what the service calls "unacceptable conduct" or unfitness for duty.

The Air Force, which is smaller than the Navy and Army, reported far fewer cases of airman leaving for misconduct, both for officers and enlisted servicemembers. The number of officers separated from service since 2000 due to a court-martial ranged from a low of 20 in 2001 to a high of 68 in 2007. For enlisted airmen, the number ranged from a high of nearly 4,500 in 2002 to a low of almost 2,900 in 2013.

Data for the Marine Corps, the military's smallest service, was not broken out by officers and enlisted personnel. Overall, it showed that Marines leaving the service due to misconduct was about 4,400 in 2007, but declined to a bit more than 3,000 last year.

Those forced to leave for commission "of a serious offense" has nearly doubled from about 260 to more than 500 over the past seven years. The number of Marines who left after court-martial has dropped from more than 1,300 in 2007 to about 250 last year. The Marine Corps also grew in size during the peak war years and is now reducing its ranks.

Seeking solutions

Across the services, leaders are trying to deal with complex questions about how to identify and correct the problems.

"I don't think there is one simple answer to the issue of ethics, values, a lapse in some of those areas," said Hagel during a recent briefing. "Was it a constant focus of 12 years on two long land wars, taking our emphasis off some of these other areas? I don't know."

He said he is appointing a top officer to work with the services on the problem, and he will be addressing the topic at regularly scheduled meetings with his military leaders. The military services have been adding more lectures on ethics in their schools and are also targeting top officers.

"We are talking to senior leaders about the consequences of power and how that changes somebody's personality," said Odierno. "Some don't realize it's happening to them."

Lower-ranking servicemembers are being asked to evaluate their higher-ranking superiors as part of the annual performance reviews. That process is slowly being expanded.

"Sometimes in the past we've overlooked character issues because of competence and commitment."

Gen. Martin Dempsey
chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

NATION

Ambassador nominations prompt uproar

Debate over whether political allies should be rewarded is renewed after string of gaffes by Obama picks

BY JULIET EILPERIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A century-old debate over whether presidents should reward political donors and allies by making them ambassadors has flared again following a string of embarrassing gaffes by President Barack Obama's picks.

The nominee for ambassador to Norway, for example, prompted outrage in Oslo by characterizing one of the nation's ruling parties as extremist. A soap-opera producer slated for Hungary appeared to have little knowledge of the country she would be living in. A prominent Obama bundler nominated to be ambassador to Argentina acknowledged that he had never set foot in the country and doesn't speak Spanish.

Even former Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the new U.S. ambassador in Beijing, managed to raise eyebrows during his confirmation hearing by acknowledging, "I'm no real expert on China."

The stumbles have highlighted the perils of rewarding well-heeled donors and well-connected politicos with plum overseas assignments, and have provided political fodder for Republicans eager to attack the White House.

The cases also underscore how a president who once infuriated donors by denying them perks has now come into line with his predecessors, doling out prominent diplomatic jobs by the dozens to supporters.

"Being a donor to the president's campaign does not guarantee you a job in the administration, but it does not prevent you from getting one," White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters last



Baucus

week. For several decades, presidents have generally followed a "70-30" rule when it comes to such appointments, nominating career foreign service officers for roughly 70 percent of U.S. missions abroad and reserving the rest for political allies.

Political appointees account for 37 percent of the ambassadorships filled so far during Obama's tenure, according to the American Foreign Service Association. The rate for his second term so far stands at 53 percent, the group said.

The numbers are at the high end for recent presidents, according to the group's data. Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford inserted political supporters in about 38 percent of their ambassador jobs; at the other end of the scale, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter had about 27 percent. George W. Bush and his father were at 30 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

Obama administration officials say the number has been inflated by a surge of second-term openings in posts typically given to nonpoliticians. The rate is sure to fall in coming months, they said.

Even then, it's a notable turnaround from Obama's first year in office, when he gave only about 10 percent of ambassadorships to political donors — angering many of those who were left out.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a

member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, said in an interview that several of Obama's recent nominees were "truly alarming" because of their lack of qualifications. "When you put someone in an ambassador's position who hasn't even been to the country, you are rolling the dice," he said.



Bell

The troubles began last month, when million-dollar bundler and Chartwell Hotels CEO George Tsunis testified at his confirmation hearing to be ambassador to Norway. Tsunis admitted he had never been to the Scandinavian country and suggested, among other things, that the nation's Progress Party was part of a discounted "fringe." It is actually part of Norway's center-right ruling coalition.

Noah Bryson Marnet was asked during his own confirmation hearing this month if he had ever been to Argentina, where he would be ambassador. "I haven't had the opportunity yet to be there," said Marnet, who raised more than

\$500,000 for Obama's re-election.

During the same hearing, Robert C. Barber, who raised more than \$1.6 million for Obama in 2012 and has been nominated to serve as ambassador to Iceland, said he had never visited the Nordic nation.

Then there is Colleen Bell, the nominee for ambassador to Hungary and the Hollywood producer behind "The Bold and the Beautiful" soap opera, who raised or contributed about \$800,000 to Obama in the last election.

She stammered her way through testimony about U.S. strategic interests in the country, which is the focus of growing international alarm over its far-right government's treatment of Jews and other minorities.

"I have no more questions for this incredibly, highly qualified group of nominees," McCain said sarcastically during the hearing for Bell and Tsunis.

David Wade, Secretary of State John Kerry's chief of staff, said in a statement that political appoint-

tees ranging from Shirley Temple to former vice president Walter Mondale had won plaudits as diplomats. White House officials note that several of Obama's first-term appointees, such as television executive Charles Rivkin in France and technology lawyer John Victor Roos in Japan, got high marks.

"It's a strength not a stigma that an ambassador spent decades running a corporation or serving as a governor or senator," Wade said. "The question is the individual, not where they come from, period."

In addition to donors, recent ambassadorships have been handed to former White House and campaign aides, including Patrick Gaspard in South Africa, Rufus Gifford in Denmark and Mark Chidress in Tanzania.

As in past administrations, some of the nonpoliticians have run into trouble. Obama's first term, political appointees in Malta, Luxembourg, Kenya and the Bahamas all resigned after inspectors general exposed management problems.

Tom Koroologos, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Belgium under George W. Bush and has prepped GOP nominees for confirmation hearings, said the biggest difference between the current raft of ambassadorial nominees and most of their predecessors has been how poorly they performed on Capitol Hill.

"I'm amazed at how the State Department let those people go so unprepared," said Koroologos, who now serves as a strategic adviser to DLA Piper. "When I went up for confirmation as ambassador to Belgium, I knew more about Belgium than the Belgians did."



Gifford

'When you put someone in an ambassador's position who hasn't even been to the country, you are rolling the dice.'

Sen. John McCain
R-Ariz.

Obama: US must rethink water usage as climate changes

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
The Associated Press

LOS BANOS, Calif. — Warning that weather-related disasters will only get worse, President Barack Obama said Friday the U.S. must rethink the way it uses water as he announced new federal aid to help drought-stricken California.

Obama drew a clear connection between California's troubles and climate change as he toured part of a farm that will go unown this year as the state faces its worst drought in more than 100 years.

Even if the U.S. takes action now to curb pollution, the planet will keep getting warmer "for a long time to come" thanks to greenhouse gases that have already built up, Obama said.

"We're going to have to stop looking at these disasters as something to wait for. We're going to have to start looking at these disasters as something to prepare for," he said.

After arriving in California on Friday afternoon, Obama met with community leaders at a rural water facility.

'A changing climate means that weather-related disasters ... are potentially going to be costlier and they're going to be harsher.'

President
Barack Obama

Before announcing more than \$160 million in federal financial aid, including \$100 million in the farm bill he signed into law recently for programs that cover the loss of livestock.

The overall package includes smaller amounts to aid in the most extreme drought areas and to help food banks that serve families affected by the water shortage.

Obama also called on federal facilities in California to limit water consumption immediately.

"These actions will help, but they're just the first step," he said. "We have to be clear. A changing climate means that weather-related disasters like droughts, wildfires, storms, floods, are potentially going to be costlier and they're going to be harsher."

He urged Congress to act swiftly on Democratic legislation backed by California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer that would pour \$300 million into emergency aid and drought-relief projects, upgrade city water systems and water conservation and speed up environmental reviews of water projects, among other steps.

The president also announced that the budget he'll send to Congress next month will include \$1 billion for a proposed "climate resilience fund" to invest in research and pay for new technologies to help communities deal with

the impact of climate change. The proposal is likely to face stiff resistance from lawmakers wary of new spending and divided on the subject of global warming.

Later Friday, Obama was meeting Jordan's King Abdullah II at the Rancho Mirage estate Sunnyslands for talks covering the Mideast peace process, Syria and other issues.

Obama planned to spend Presidents Day weekend at the estate and was expected to make use of

its golf course.

He traveled without first lady Michelle Obama.

The White House has been closely watching the California drought, which follows a year of the lowest rainfall on record.

The drought has also brought to a head political warfare over the state's water resources that feed major cities, the country's richest agricultural region and waterways that provide habitat for endangered species of fish.

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NATION

Fight over gay marriage moving to federal courts

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The overturning of Virginia's gay marriage ban places the legal fight over same-sex unions increasingly in the hands of federal appeals courts shaped by President Barack Obama's two election victories.

It's no accident that Virginia has become a key testing ground for federal judges' willingness to embrace same-sex marriage after last year's strongly worded pro-gay rights ruling by the Supreme Court. Judges appointed by Democratic presidents have a 10-5 edge over Republicans on the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, formerly among the nation's most conservative appeals courts.

Nationally, three other federal appeals courts soon will take up the right of same-sex couples to marry, too, in Ohio, Colorado and California. The San Francisco-based 9th circuit is dominated by judges appointed by Democratic presidents. The Denver-based court, home of the 10th circuit, has shifted from a Republican advantage to an even split between the parties, while the 6th circuit, based in Cincinnati, remains relatively unchanged in favor of Republicans during Obama's tenure.

U.S. District Judge Arenda

Wright Allen's ruling Thursday that same-sex couples in Virginia have the same constitutional right to marry as heterosexuals represented the strongest advance in the South for advocates of gay marriage. She put her own ruling on hold while it is being appealed.

Jon Davidson of the gay rights group Lambda Legal said the "very dramatic" shift in the 4th circuit under Obama was an important reason behind the decision to sue for marriage rights in Virginia, which also twice voted for Obama.

Judges' party affiliation is not a perfect predictor of outcomes, even on charged political issues. Republican-appointed judges in California and Kentucky have written opinions strongly in favor of same-sex marriage. An Obama-appointed judge on the 10th circuit provided the decisive vote in a family-owned company's religious objection challenge to covering contraception under the health care law. And most notably, Chief Justice John Roberts, a GOP appointee, joined with the court's Democrats to uphold the health care law.

Still, one consequence of Obama's two elections has been a change in the composition of the courts. Just more than 60 percent of appellate judges were Republican appointees when Obama took office in January 2009, according to Brookings Institution scholar

Russell Wheeler. Just more than five years later, Democratic appointees hold more than half the seats on appeals courts — a transformation magnified by majority Democrats who changed Senate rules last year to make it harder for the minority party to block the president's nominees.

Legal experts on the left and the right agree that who fills court seats matters. "To be fair, academic studies show that political party affiliation doesn't affect the run-of-the-mill cases, but it does affect the cases you're likely to write about," said Curt Levey, who heads the conservative Committee for Justice.

Davidson, Lambda Legal's top lawyer, said, "People frequently don't appreciate the extent to which the president influences the composition of the courts. It is a remarkable thing about how elections have impact and this is one of the very dramatic ways you see it. There is a focus on the Supreme Court, but not on the lower courts."

Five federal district judges have issued pro-gay marriage rulings since the Supreme Court's decision in Windsor v. U.S. in June that struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law. Three of those judges are Obama appointees, one was named by Democratic President Bill Clinton and the other by Republican President George H.W. Bush.



BILL TERNAN, THE (NORFOLK) VIRGINIAN-PILOT/AP

Robert Roman, left, and Claus Ihlemann of Virginia Beach celebrate Thursday's federal court ruling that Virginia's same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional during a news conference Friday in Norfolk, Va.

Nancy Leong, a University of Denver law professor who is closely following the gay marriage issue at the 10th circuit, said the lineup of judges who have ruled so far conforms to general expectations.

"You don't want to presume that just because someone was nominated by one president they'd vote a particular way, but I think in the aggregate, Republican appointees are more likely to support same-sex marriage," Leong said.

But every judge who has decided a same-sex marriage case since last year's Supreme Court ruling has come down on the side of gay marriage and has drawn heavily on the high court's opinions.

Theodore Olson, half of the high-powered legal team representing two Virginia couples in the case decided Thursday, said he is confident about the outcome

in the appeals courts "irrespective of the composition of any court. These arguments are so compelling ... and the arguments presented against marriage equality are so weak."

Defenders of the marriage ban are far from conceding that point. "The people of Virginia understand that men and women bring distinct, irreplaceable gifts to family life, especially for children who deserve both a mom and a dad," said Byron Babione, a lawyer for the pro-ban group Alliance Defending Freedom. "Understanding that truth, the voters of Virginia approved a constitutional amendment to affirm marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The court's reasoning, however, would permit nearly every relationship to be a marriage so long as it is grounded in choice and emotion, yet that's not what marriage or true liberty has ever been."

Gay marriage foes scrambling after court setbacks

By DAVID A. LIEB, DAVID CRAWLEY
AND CRAIG ZOLL
The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Opponents of same-sex marriage are scrambling to find effective responses, in Congress and state legislatures, to a rash of court rulings that would force some of America's most conservative states to accept gay nuptials.

Some gay-marriage foes are backing a bill recently introduced in both chambers of Congress that would leave states fully in charge of their marriage policies, though the measure stands little chance of passage. In the states, they are endorsing a multitude of bills — some intended to protect gay-marriage bans, others to assert a right, based on religious freedom, to have nothing to do with gay marriages should those bans be struck down.

In Utah, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Virginia, federal judges have voided part or all of the bans on same-sex marriage that voters approved between 2004 and 2006. Each of the rulings has been stayed pending appeals, and a final, nationwide resolution may



DAVID BUNDY/AP

Roy Moore, then a candidate for Alabama Supreme Court chief justice, speaks as wife Kayla looks on in Montgomery, Ala., on election night in 2012. Moore seeks support of a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between only a man and a woman.

be a few years away in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The trend is unsettling to the activists who oppose gay marriage, and some have called

for extraordinary measures in response.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, known for fighting to displace the Ten Commandments in

a judicial building, has written to all 50 governors urging them to support a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as between only a man and a woman.

In Missouri, where voters approved a gay-marriage ban in 2004, eight Republican House members filed articles of impeachment against Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon after he ordered his administration to accept joint tax returns from same-sex couples who were legally married in other states. The Republican House leader has yet to schedule the matter for public hearings, but some GOP sponsors insist they are serious.

"The people put it in the constitution that marriage is between one man and one woman — the issue is the governor has absolutely ignored the constitution and the people's will," said Rep. Ron Schieber, a Republican from Kansas City.

The demand for religious exemptions, meanwhile, is widespread. Gay marriage opponents have fought for strong exemptions in every state where lawmakers already have decided the issue. In New York, for example, gay

marriage was recognized only after Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state's top two legislators struck an 11th-hour compromise on religious accommodations.

However, the resulting exemptions generally have been limited in scope — and haven't come anywhere near what gay marriage opponents sought. In Massachusetts and Iowa, where same-sex marriage won recognition through the courts, there are no religious exemptions related to the rulings.

In light of this track record, opponents in red states have been proposing pre-emptive bills with broad accommodations for religious objectors. Most of the bills aim to protect individuals or businesses who, for religious reasons, don't want to serve same-sex couples.

Bills in Ohio, Mississippi, Arizona, Idaho and Oklahoma would allow a person or company to assert a religious freedom defense against a lawsuit from another private party. For example, a baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple could defend his decision as a legally protected religious right.

NATION

UAW falls 87 votes shy of major win in South

By ERIK SCHELZIG
AND TOM KRISHER
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Just 87 votes at the Volkswagen plant in Tennessee separated the United Auto Workers union from what would have been its first successful organization of workers at a foreign automaker in the South.

Instead of celebrating a potential watershed moment for labor politics in the region, UAW supporters were left crestfallen by the 712-626 vote against union representation in the election that ended Friday night.

The result stunned many labor experts who expected a UAW win because Volkswagen tacitly endorsed the union and even allowed organizers into the Chattanooga factory to make sales pitches.

The loss is a major setback for the UAW's effort to make inroads in the growing South, where foreign automakers have 14 assembly plants, eight built in the past decade, said Kristin Dzielick, director of the labor and industry group at the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Michigan.

"If this was going to work anywhere, this is where it was going

to work," she said of the Volkswagen vote.

Organizing a Southern plant is so crucial to the union that UAW President Bob King told workers in a speech that the union has no long-term future without it. The loss means the union remains largely quarantined with the Detroit Three in the Midwest and Northeast.

Many viewed VW as the union's best chance to gain a crucial foothold in the South because other automakers have not been as welcoming as Volkswagen. Labor interests make up half of the supervisory board at VW in Germany, and they questioned why the Chattanooga plant is the company's only major factory worldwide without formal worker representation.

VW wanted a German-style "works council" in Chattanooga to give employees a say over working conditions. The company says U.S. law won't allow it without an independent union.

In Chattanooga, the union faced stern opposition from Republican politicians who warned that a UAW victory would chase away other automakers who might come to the region.



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

An employee works the register Friday inside the retail shop at 3D Cannabis Center in Denver.

Banks wary after federal guidance on pot business

By GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — For marijuana dispensaries around the country, the days of doing business in cash — driving around with bill-stuffed envelopes to pay the rent, or showing up at a state revenue office with \$20,000 in paper bags for the tax man — can't end soon enough.

It's not clear that the Obama administration's new guidance on pot-related banking is going to end them.

The Justice and Treasury Departments won Friday issued banks a road map for doing business with marijuana firms. The security-wary pot industry, including recreational shops in Colorado and medical marijuana operators elsewhere, welcomed the long-awaited news, but banking industry groups made clear that the administration's tone didn't make them feel much easier about taking pot money.

The banks were hoping the announcement would relieve them of the threat of prosecution should they open accounts for marijuana businesses, Don Childers, president of the Colorado Bankers Association, said in a written statement. It doesn't.

"After a series of red lights, we expected this guidance to be a yellow one," Childers said. "At best, this amounts to 'serve these customers at your own risk' and it emphasizes all of the risks. This light is red."

Some dispensaries have managed to open accounts, sometimes by being less than forthcoming about their businesses, but for the most part, banking has long been a headache for the cannabis industry. Because marijuana remains illegal under federal law,

banks haven't been able to accept pot business without risking prosecution for money laundering or racketeering.

But 20 states now have medical marijuana laws on the books; two, Washington and Colorado, have legalized marijuana sales to adults; and Alaska voters this summer will consider a similar recreational pot law.

With the industry emerging from the underground, states want to track marijuana sales and to collect taxes. It's a lot easier to do that when the businesses have bank accounts.

It's easier on the businesses, as well. For Seattle's Conscious Care Cooperative, a medical marijuana dispensary with three branches and 11,000 members, the guidance "definitely looks exciting," said Trek Hollnagel, a business consultant there.

The dispensary started operating on a cash basis after bouncing from bank to bank. Hollnagel said Conscious Care was always up front with banks about their business, and some, including Bank of America, would let them open accounts — only to freeze or close them later on.

"From one day to the next, they changed their policies," Hollnagel said. "If all your funds are frozen for two weeks it makes it difficult to run a business. You write a rent check on a Monday, get a call from the bank Tuesday saying the account's frozen, then a call from your landlord on Wednesday saying the check bounced."

Instead, Hollnagel or others at the dispensary wound up driving around with \$10,000 in a bank envelope to pay their bills. And when they showed up at the state Department of Revenue to pay their taxes, it would take half

an hour for an agent to count the money, Hollnagel said.

"Hopefully with these changes, we'll be able to go back to being a real business," he said.

Maybe, maybe not. Under the guidance, banks must review state license applications for marijuana customers, request information about the businesses, develop an understanding of the types of products to be sold and monitor publicly available sources for any negative information about the businesses.

The guidance provided the banks with more than 20 "red flags" that may indicate a violation of state law. Among them: if a business receives substantially more revenue than its local competitors, deposits more cash than is in line with the amount of marijuana-related revenue it is reporting for federal and state tax purposes, or experiences a surge in activity by third parties offering goods or services, such as equipment suppliers or shipping services.

If a marijuana-related business is seen engaging in interstate activity, such as the receipt of cash deposits from locations outside the state, that's problematic, too.

The banks need to file "suspicious activity reports" on their pot customers — designated either "marijuana limited," for those believed to be complying with the federal government's law-enforcement priorities, such as keeping pot away from children; "marijuana priority," for those the banks have questions about; or "marijuana termination," for those believed to be engaging in criminal activity.

Ariz. inmate escapes for Valentine's Day rendezvous

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — An Arizona jail inmate who escaped by climbing two walls and crawling through razor wire and was reportedly meeting his sweetheart on Valentine's Day is back in custody.

The Pinal County Sheriff's office said in a news release that inmate Joseph Andrew Dekenipp was caught a few hours after he escaped Friday from the county detention center.

The office said he would undergo treatment for serious cuts

he got from the wire before being returned to the lockup.

The Arizona Republic reported that Dekenipp, 40, was arrested without incident after he arrived at a Coolidge saloon and grill where he was to meet his girlfriend. Coolidge is about 35 miles southeast of Phoenix.

Dekenipp has been in jail since his arrest. He is suspected of vehicle theft, trafficking in stolen property, unlawful flight, and driving on a suspended license.

Officials say he is now facing an escape charge.

Georgia power outages down to fewer than 100K

The Associated Press

As some parts of the eastern U.S. recover from last week's snow storms, the northeast is preparing for another round.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for coastal, central and northeastern Maine from Saturday night through Sunday morning.

The forecast calls for between 12 and 18 inches of snow in some spots. The National Weather Service says heavy snow and strong winds will cause hazardous driving conditions.

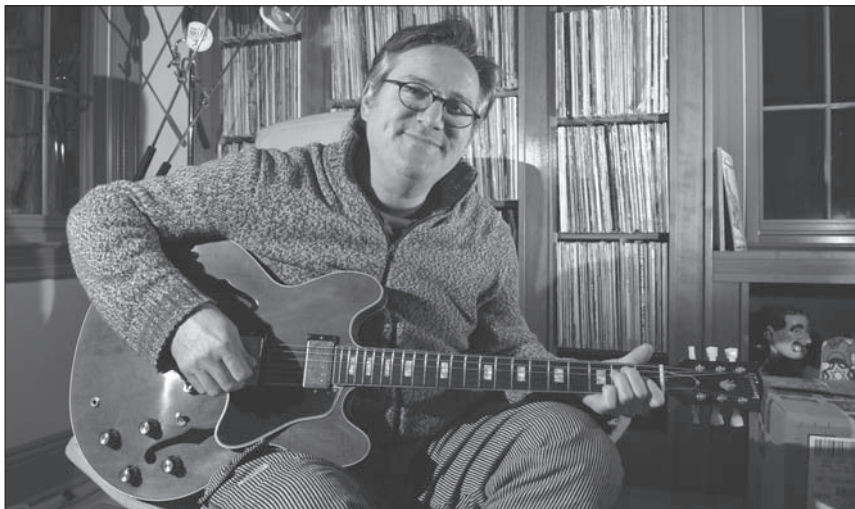
Southern states are showing signs of recovery from last week's ice storm. Fewer than 100,000

customers are still without power in Georgia, as power crews work to restore electricity in the state's hard-hit east.

The utility companies say nearly a million homes and businesses in Georgia lost power at some point after a storm blanketed the region with snow and ice.

And in South Carolina, utility crews are making steady progress getting the lights back on after the worst winter storm in a decade. The latest reports from power companies show about 125,000 customers statewide were without power at midday Saturday. That's down from 225,000 about noon Friday.

NATION



David Schneider poses with a custom Gibson guitar at his home in Fairfield, Conn. It was given to him by Gibson after hearing of how his 1965 Gibson ES-335 guitar was broken by baggage handlers at Delta Airlines.

Study: Talk aids babies' brains

BY LAUREN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The sooner parents start explaining the world to their baby, the better. That does not mean flash cards for tots, or merely pointing out objects: "Here's an orange. That's a bowl."

New research shows that both how much and how well parents talk with babies and toddlers helps tune the youngsters' brains in ways that build crucial language and vocabulary skills — a key to fighting the infamous word gap that puts poor children at a disadvantage at an even younger age than once thought.

The idea is to connect words and meaning, so the brain becomes primed to learn through context: "Let's put the orange in this bowl with the banana and the apple and the grapes."

"You're building intelligence through language," is how Stanford University psychology professor Anne Fernald explains it.

And forget dumbed-down baby talk. Longer, more complex sentences are better.

"The advice I give mothers is to have conversations with your babies," said Erika Hoff, a psychology professor at Florida Atlantic University. "Children can hear lots of talk that goes over their head in terms of the meaning, and they still benefit from it."

The research, presented Thursday and Friday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, comes amid a growing push for universal preschool, to help disadvantaged youngsters catch up.

But it also begs the question of whether children from low-income, less educated families need earlier intervention, such as preschool that starts at age 3 instead of 4, or higher quality day care, or even some sort of "let's talk" campaign aimed at new parents to stress talking, singing and reading with tots even before they can respond. That can be difficult for parents working multiple jobs, or who may not read well or who simply don't know why it's important.

Airline rules on musical instruments stalled

BY JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Busted guitars, mangled cellos, broken banjos, lost lutes — musicians who rely on airlines to get them to performances have seen it all.

Two years ago, Congress stepped in to help, directing the Department of Transportation to write rules to make sure instruments don't get damaged or lost. The rules were due Friday, but the department hasn't even started writing them, citing a lack of money.

"We're working to find funding to support the kind of regulatory evaluations that are required to do the rulemaking," Transportation spokeswoman Meghan Keck said.

The department, which regulates airlines

on matters that affect consumers, asked for money in this year's budget for four more staff members to write new agency regulations but was turned down by Congress.

The rules are supposed to implement a law requiring airlines to store instruments in closets and in overhead bins where they fit. Travelers would be allowed to buy seats for larger instruments weighing less than 165 pounds.

Musicians have long complained that airlines frequently require that instruments be checked as baggage, with the result that they are often damaged or lost.

Guitarist and singer Dave Schneider watched as Delta Airlines employees yanked, pulled and ripped at his smashed 1965 Gibson ES-335 guitar, trying for more than an hour to free it from where it had been wedged between a service

elevator and a loading dock in an airport baggage claim in December 2012. Schneider had begged Delta to let him carry the guitar on a flight from Buffalo, N.Y., to Detroit, but airline employees denied his request.

One such guitar was listed Thursday on eBay with a bid of \$3,851.

Canadian musician Dave Carroll had a guitar smashed after a flight in 2009, and wrote a song and book about it, both called "United Breaks Guitars." Carroll's online video of his song was so popular — and so damaging to United Airlines — that it has become a business case study of how social media can harm a company's image.

More than 30 members of Congress signed a letter this week to Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx complaining about the delay.

Few eligible patients can afford weight loss surgery

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Like 78 million other Americans, MaryJane Harrison is obese.

And like many critically overweight Americans, Harrison cannot afford to have weight loss surgery because her health insurance doesn't cover it. The financial burden makes it nearly impossible for her to follow the advice of three physicians who have prescribed the stomach-shrinking procedure for Harrison, who is four-feet, 10 inches and weighs 265 pounds.

Harrison's health insurance plan, provided by UnitedHealth, excludes coverage of any surgical procedures for weight loss. She and her family are trying to raise \$15,000 to pay for the surgery that she thinks will save her.

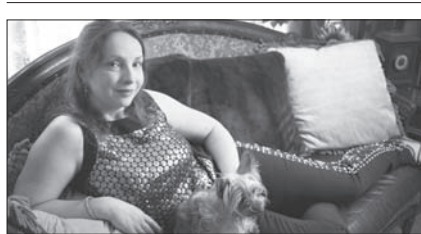
"I am now 53 and I don't think I'm going to live to be 55," says Harrison, 53, who lives outside

of San Antonio and has tried for years to lose weight through dieting and exercise.

Harrison's case underscores a surprising trend: While the number of obese Americans persists at record levels, the number of patients undergoing weight loss surgery hasn't budged in a decade.

Last year, about 160,000 U.S. patients underwent weight loss surgery — roughly the same number as in 2004. That's only about 1 percent of the estimated 18 million adults who qualify nationwide for the surgery, according to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

Surgeons blame a combination of factors for the stagnating numbers, including the economic downturn and a social stigma against resorting to surgery to treat weight problems. But insurance coverage is the largest hurdle, they say.



COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER, THE COLUMBIAN DISPATCH/AP

Sheila Ranea Crabtree has legally changed her first name to Sexy.

Mom who loathed name can change it to Sexy

NEWARK, Ohio — A central Ohio woman who loathed being named Sheila and wanted a moniker that reflected her personality has legally changed her first name to Sexy.

A judge approved the request Tuesday from the 41-year-old woman, formerly named Sheila

Ranea Crabtree. In her application, Crabtree called her given name "the ugliest one out there."

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Crabtree told a judge that her husband and teenage daughters approve of the change. When the judge asked why she chose Sexy, Crabtree said she's fun and free-spirited.

From The Associated Press

NATION

BAND OF TRAILBLAZERS

Professor's book recalls all-black group who integrated the modern US Navy

By GINGER LIVINGSTON

*The Daily Reflector
of Greenville (N.C.)*

Being a hero is not always about staring down the barrel of a gun.

A hero is someone who lives life with dignity and grace when circumstances encourage and expect anger and violence.

An East Carolina University professor recently published a book profiling a group of World War II veterans who lived that second form of heroism when they broke the modern Navy's racial divide.

Alex Albright's "The Forgotten First: B-1 and the Integration of the Modern Navy" tells the story of the men who performed in B-1, an all-black Navy band stationed at the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They were the first black men to earn an enlisted rank. Until then, blacks only could serve as mess men and stewards, the lowest ranks in the Navy.

"They were very brave men," said Albright, an associate professor of English. "When you think of bravery, you associate it with front-line fighting. But bravery and courage are defined in a lot of different ways, especially in how you live your life."

The U.S. Navy — especially in the early 20th century — had the most racist policies of the nation's armed services. Blacks were banned from serving in the Navy after World War I until 1937 when servant positions — mess men and stewards — were open to them.

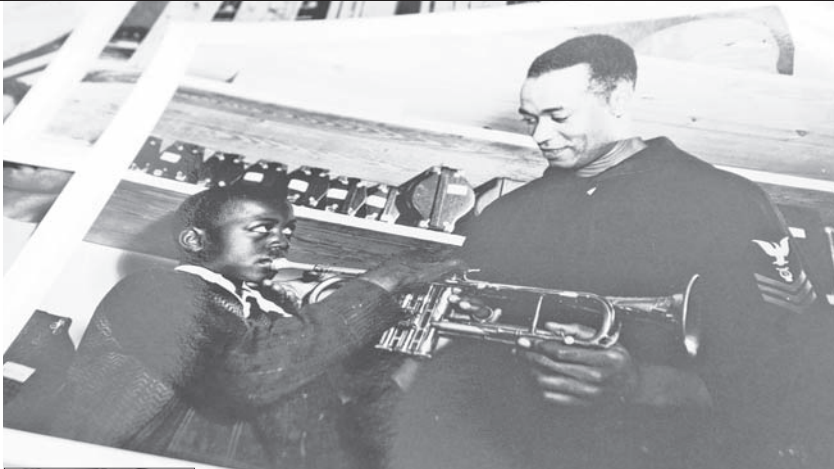
President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, wanted more, Albright said.

"There was a lot of federal interest in making the South behave, to stop lynching people, to allow voting and to allow equal rights," Albright said.

However, Roosevelt's political capital was tied to southern Democrats so he could not take aggressive steps, he said.

As the United States entered World War II, Roosevelt's supporters saw an opportunity for further integration.

A naval pilot training school opened at Chapel Hill. The late Frank Porter Graham, then the



Above: A photograph collected from an all-black band which helped integrate the Navy during World War II. **Left:** Alex Albright, an East Carolina University professor, recently published a book, "The Forgotten First: B-1 and the Integration of the Modern Navy," profiling the men who broke the modern Navy's racial divide.

PHOTOS BY AILEEN DEVLIN, THE DAILY REFLECTOR/AP

bands and several hundred white bands performing.

Albright said he wrote the "Forgotten First" book because he wanted today's generation to know the people who broke through an important racial barrier.

"It came together when I started thinking the ideal audience was the grandchildren of these people," Albright said. "Most young people know little about the tribulations of Jim Crow and segregation because their parents and grandparents didn't want to relive the indignities of Jim Crow."

Albright experienced this with the B-1 members.

"They talked about their service but they never talked much about the problems they endured," he said. They were forward-looking individuals.

Albright's work on "Forgotten First" began in 1986 when he was researching a 1947 movie "Pitch a Boogie Woogie," a musical with an all-black cast that

was filmed in Greenville.

Albright struck up a friendship with Huey Lawrence and met other members of the film's band, many who lived in eastern North Carolina.

"I kept hearing from the group that they were the first blacks to serve above the gallery rank (in the Navy)," Albright said. The more they talked about their experience, the more he realized there was a bigger story to be told.

The B-1 members received a commemorative plaque in 1992 to mark the 50th anniversary of the band's formation, but they were not recognized as the group that integrated the Navy.

That recognition went to band members who were trained and stationed at the Great Lakes naval station in Illinois, beginning in June 1942. Albright had documentation that showed B-1 members enlisted several months before June 1942. However, he could not find documentation show-

ing when B-1 was formed. The Navy had boxed up and stored its records from the time but they were not catalogued.

About seven years ago, Albright went to the National Archives in College Park, Md., to continue his research. An archivist knew where the boxes from that period were stored and offered to search them for Albright.

It took some time but the archivist brought out a box. It contained a letter that said the Navy needed a "colored" band to perform at the Chapel Hill pilot's school. The letter documented the arrangements needed to bring the musicians to Chapel Hill and to house them. The letter proved B-1 had been formed in March and April of 1942, two months before Great Lakes.

"It was pretty exciting to see that letter, to know it verified their story," he said.

The Navy now recognizes the members of B-1 as the ones who integrated its ranks.

WORLD

Man-eating tiger stalks Indian villages

By TIM SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

MANIWALA, India — She lies in wait while her victims are collecting firewood, or taking cattle to graze, or working in the fields. She has grabbed people in broad daylight, carrying them away silently into the forests or the sugarcane fields. By the time the victims are found, often little is left but a pair of shoes, unspeakable gore and a ring of drying blood.

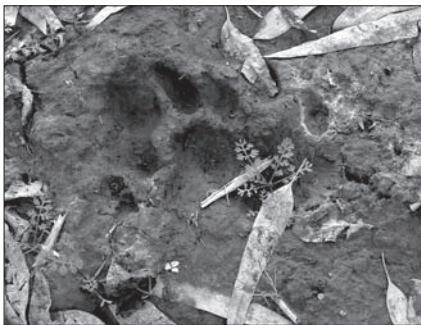
In seven weeks, she has trampled, almost completely unscathed, for more than 120 miles. She has crossed villages, small towns and at least one highway.

A killer is stalking the villages of northern India. She has killed at least nine people, all of them poor villagers living on the fringes of one of the world's last wild tiger habitats. They are people who cannot afford a day off work, people who have no indoor plumbing and must use the fields as their toilets. They are people who know little about India's recent successes in tiger conservation.

But with the sudden appearance of one tiger, they look at an animal so beloved to outsiders and see only a monster.

"She has turned into a man-eater," said Vijay Pal Singh, whose neighbor, a farm laborer named Shiv Kumar Singh, 22, was killed as he worked at the edge of a sugarcane field in January. In an area where nearly everyone works outside, this means life has been completely upended. "People are afraid to go into the fields," said Singh. "Everything has changed."

While hunters are brought in to kill man-eating tigers every year or so in India, it has been decades since a tiger killed as many people



PHOTOS BY SAURABH DAS/AP

A paw print left by a tiger that attacked and killed a young man working nearby remains on a field in Maniawala, northern India.

as this one, or stayed on the run so long.

"She won't stop now. She'll keep killing," said Samar Jeet Singh, a hunter with an aristocratic pedigree, a curled-up moustache and a high-powered heirloom rifle. For almost a month, he has been tracking the female tiger, most recently through the forests and dried riverbeds near where she made her last kill, cutting down an elderly buffalo herder last week. Searchers found just part of one arm and one leg. The tiger left the buffaloes unharmed.

When he finds her, he said, he will shoot her dead.

"The time for tranquilizing is over, the time for caging is over," he said. "Now she must be killed."

For generations, few in these villages even thought about tigers. The encroachment of towns, widespread poaching and incompetent wildlife programs had devastated India's tiger populations, forcing them into ever-smaller enclaves. Corbett National Park, one of India's premier tiger reserves, is barely 25 miles away, but while the villagers around here are used to living with wildlife — the forests and fields shelter leopards, monkeys, foxes, bears and wild boars

— tigers were extremely rare.

The past decade, though, has seen improvements in tiger conservation and growth in the tiger populations. If that is good news in many ways, it also has increased the chances of encounters between tigers and people.

"This area is so rich in wildlife," said Vijay Singh, a top regional forestry official in the nearby town of Bijnor (and who, like so many people in this region has the last name Singh). "That is the problem."

The problem is magnified by the choice of crops. Sugarcane is the backbone of the local economy, and thousands of cane fields, with their dense stands of 10-foot-tall plants, offer ideal hiding places.

Wildlife experts know little about the tiger they are hunting. They know it is a female because of the shape of its paw prints, and many believe it is somehow injured, which could explain why it overcame its natural fear of humans.

While most tigers flee at any sign of people, humans are also much easier prey: slower than deer, weaker than buffalo and with soft skin that is easy to bite through.



A villager carries a sickle as a measure of security as he ventures near the spot where a tiger attacked and killed a young man recently at Maniawala, northern India.

Syria peace talks in peril following 6th day in Geneva

By JOHN HEILPRIN
The Associated Press

GENEVA — U.N.-Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi ended direct talks between the Syrian government and its opposition Saturday without finding a way of breaking the impasse in peace talks.

Saturday's talks, which lasted less than half an hour, left the future of the negotiating process in doubt and no date was set for a third session.

Afterward, Brahimi told a news conference that he had proposed an agenda for another round of talks that would focus first on ending the violence and terrorism, then on how to create a transitional governing body.

"Unfortunately, the government has refused," he told reporters, saying he would now seek consultations with the United States and Russia, the main sponsors of the peace conference, and the United Nations to see how to proceed.

"I think it is better that every side goes back and reflects on

their responsibility (and if) they want this process to continue or not," Brahimi said. "It's not good for the process, it's not good for Syria, that we come back after another round and fall back into the same traps that we have been struggling with."

But he also made clear that he did not want to lose another week or more before negotiations could resume.

The latest round of talks lasted for a sixth consecutive day at U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, while the violence kept escalating back home for Syrians.

Despite the hostility between the two delegations that has produced little more than public displays of acrimony and sparring before the TV cameras, the opposition said it continued to hold out hope for a political solution.

Anas al-Abdih, a member of the opposition negotiating team, said his side accepted the agenda but the government's unwillingness to go along with it has put the prospects of a third session of talks within the "Geneva 2" negotiating round in doubt.

Israel laser shield closer to deployment

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — An Israeli state-owned arms company developing a laser-based missile shield that evokes "Star Wars" style technology says its deployment over the country is closer to becoming a reality.

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems said development of the system was advanced enough for the company to be comfortable with publicizing it at last week's Singapore Airshow, which is Asia's largest aerospace and defense exhibition.

The laser technology behind the missile shield called Iron Beam is not that far removed from fiction.

"It's exactly like what you see in Star Wars," said company spokesman Amit Zimmer. "You see the lasers go up so quickly like a flash and the target is finished."

Iron Beam is designed to intercept close-range drones, rockets and mortars that might not remain in the air long enough for Israel's current Iron Dome missile defense system to intercept.

Iron Dome batteries have shot down hundreds of rockets launched by Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip at Israeli cities. With no peace deal in sight

and also threatened by Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel wants to beef up that system and to develop further protection.

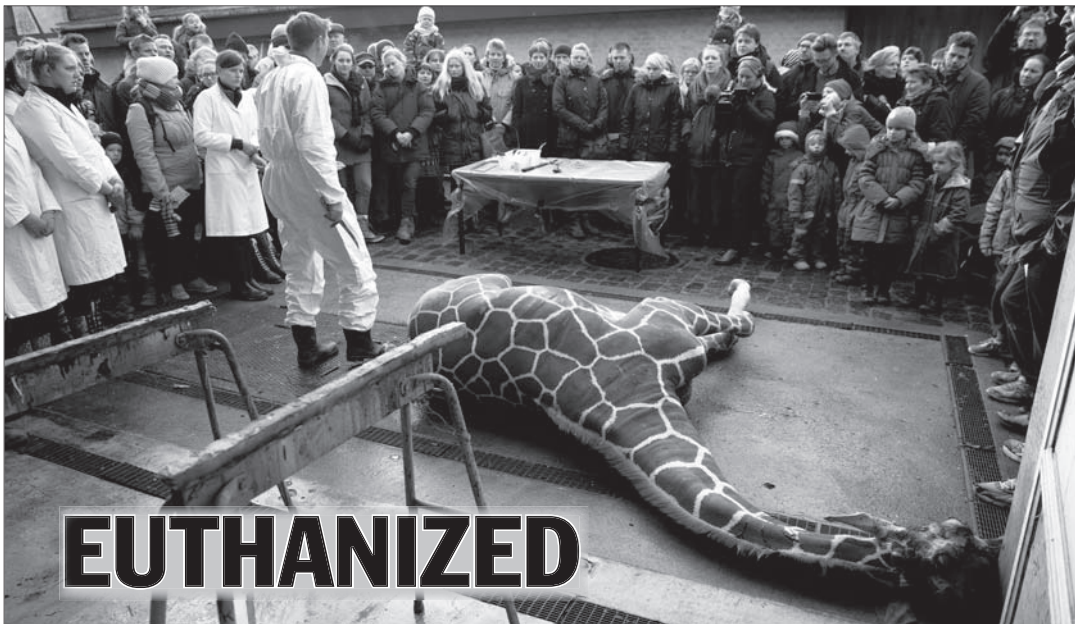
Avnish Patel, an expert in military sciences at the Royal United Services Institute, said Iron Beam is potentially an effective addition to Israel's defenses rather than a drastic change.

"Essentially, its military and tactical utility will be particularly useful in complementing the already proven Iron Dome system in tackling very short range threats such as rockets and mortar fire and in close quarter engagements," he said.

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems said test data show Iron Beam lasers are blasting away more than 90 percent of their targets. The new system also can be modified so that multiple lasers can be used to hit a target, according to the company. But officials remain tight-lipped as to when and how the Iron Beam will be deployed.

Zimmer said it took 15 engineers about five years to work on the technology involving solid-state lasers. It works by shooting laser beams at targets that are heated so rapidly they disintegrate in an instant.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY POLFO/AF

Marius, a male giraffe, lies dead before being butchered after he was put down at the Copenhagen Zoo on Feb. 9. The zoo turned down offers from other zoos and \$680,000 from a private individual to save the life of the healthy 2-year-old giraffe, which was killed with a bolt pistol. Below: The giraffe's meat was fed to lions at the zoo.

Thousands of zoo animals killed in Europe yearly

By MALIN RISING
The Associated Press

People around the world were stunned when Copenhagen Zoo killed a healthy 2-year-old giraffe named Marius, butchered its carcass in front of a crowd that included children and then fed it to lions.

But Marius' fate isn't unique — thousands of animals are euthanized in European zoos each year for a variety of reasons.

Zoo managers say their job is to preserve species, not individual animals. In the U.S., zoos try to avoid killing animals by using contraceptives to make sure they don't have more offspring than they can house, but that method has also been criticized for disrupting animals' natural behavior.

U.S. and European zoological organizations refuse to release figures for the total number of animals killed. But David Williams Mitchell, spokesman of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums estimates an average zoo in its 347-member organization annually kills about five large mammals, which adds up to 1,735.

That number doesn't include zoos and animal parks that don't belong to the association. Animal rights groups suggest numbers are much higher.

The Associated Press contacted 10 zoos in Europe — two refused to comment, four said they never kill any animals unless severely ill and four said they kill between one and 30 animals every year. Two zoos in the U.S. said they kill animals only for "quality of life reasons."

Why are they killed?

Zoos euthanize animals because of poor health, old age, lack of space or conserva-

tion management. EAZA policy for zoos in Europe suggests euthanasia may be used as a last resort to achieve a balanced population within breeding programs — Marius was killed to prevent inbreeding. But Williams Mitchell insists only "a fraction of 1 percent" of the killings are for such reasons. The idea is to maintain a group of genetically healthy animals in zoos that can be used to reintroduce the species into the wild should it become extinct.

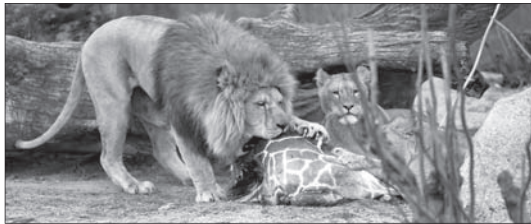
Some U.S. zoos were reluctant to comment on Copenhagen's practices, but there is a philosophical divide between U.S. and European zoos over best practices. The U.S. Association of Zoos and Aquariums said Thursday that incidents such as the giraffe killing "do not happen at AZA-accredited zoos."

In Asia, the parent company for the Singapore Zoo said in a statement that "euthanasia of animals is necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the herd, as overcrowding could lead to injuries, stress, and disease outbreak."

"All animals in zoos die at some point and maybe zoos forgot to tell people," said Jens Sigsgaard, zoological director at Aalborg Zoo in Denmark, which, like Copenhagen Zoo, performs open dissections of animals for educational purposes. "They come year after year. They probably think it's the same animals that were there when they came as kids."

What are the other options?

When animals reproduce, most zoos first try to find another one in their network to which they can send the offspring. Last week, a German zoo said it would send a monkey to the Czech Republic because he's produced so many offspring that he would soon start having children with his



own relatives.

Zoos generally avoid selling the animals on the open market, fearing they will end up in poor conditions. Some European zoos and most zoos in the U.S. choose to use contraceptives, sterilization or separation of males and females to avoid breeding more animals than they can house.

Sharon Dewar, spokeswoman for the U.S. animal Population Management Center, said animals there are recommended to "breed only when sustainable housing for any offspring can be assured." That approach is dismissed as "totally wrong" by Bengt Holst at Copenhagen Zoo, who said breeding is important for an animal's well-being.

AZA's Williams Mitchell said there is an ongoing discussion and expects Marius' case to intensify the debate.

Which animals are killed?

Both endangered species and other animals are killed at zoos. EAZA said five giraffes have been killed in European zoos since 2005.

Skansen Museum & Zoo in Stockholm said it euthanized one bear and one Eurasian lynx last year, while Helsinki Zoo

killed one Alpine ibex. Aalborg Zoo in Denmark kills up to 15 animals a year, including red river hogs, antelopes and capybaras.

In addition to Marius, Copenhagen Zoo said it kills 20 to 30 antelopes, llamas, goats and other animals yearly. Some zoos also raise pigs, goats and cattle to feed carnivores.

What do critics say?

Animal rights groups have said Marius' case highlights what they believe is the overall problem with zoos. The Captive Animals' Protection Society said its studies show between 7,500 to 200,000 animals are considered "surplus animals" at European zoos at any one time, and director Liz Tyson said the only solution to the problem is not to visit zoos.

Will Travers, president of the Born Free Foundation, questioned whether the zoos' breeding programs contribute that much to conservation. He said research by his foundation has shown that the majority of species kept in zoos aren't threatened with extinction in the wild and called for an immediate review of EAZA's euthanasia policies.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sheriff cancels Valentine's Day

GA ATLANTA — A sheriff in northeastern Georgia said he was canceling Valentine's Day because of the bad weather, telling men they were off the hook for the romantic gifts their partners may be expecting.

Sheriff Scott Berry in Oconee County took to Facebook to announce his decision after an ice storm slammed Georgia on Wednesday.

Men, he wrote, "are exempt from having to run out and buy lottery scratchers and Hershey bars from the corner stores" until Tuesday.

The post was in fun and was shared more than 1,700 times.

Officials warn of measles exposure

CA BERKELEY — San Francisco Bay Area officials said a University of California, Berkeley, student infected with measles could have exposed thousands of others by attending classes and riding public transit.

Public health officials said Thursday they confirmed that the student in his 20s was not vaccinated, and was likely infected with measles during a recent trip abroad.

Health officials said people who have had measles before, or who are vaccinated, are unlikely to be infected even if they have contact with the contagious person.

Those without a vaccination are at risk of catching the disease if exposed to the virus.

Wolf hybrid must leave, owner told

NE LINCOLN — The owner of an unusual wolf hybrid dog breed faces a Monday deadline to comply with a local ordinance and remove his dog from inside Lincoln city limits.

Alex Kaftan went to court to delay the order from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, but a judge denied the motion. Kaftan was told in a Jan. 17 letter that he must relocate his Czechoslovakian vlcak within 30 days, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

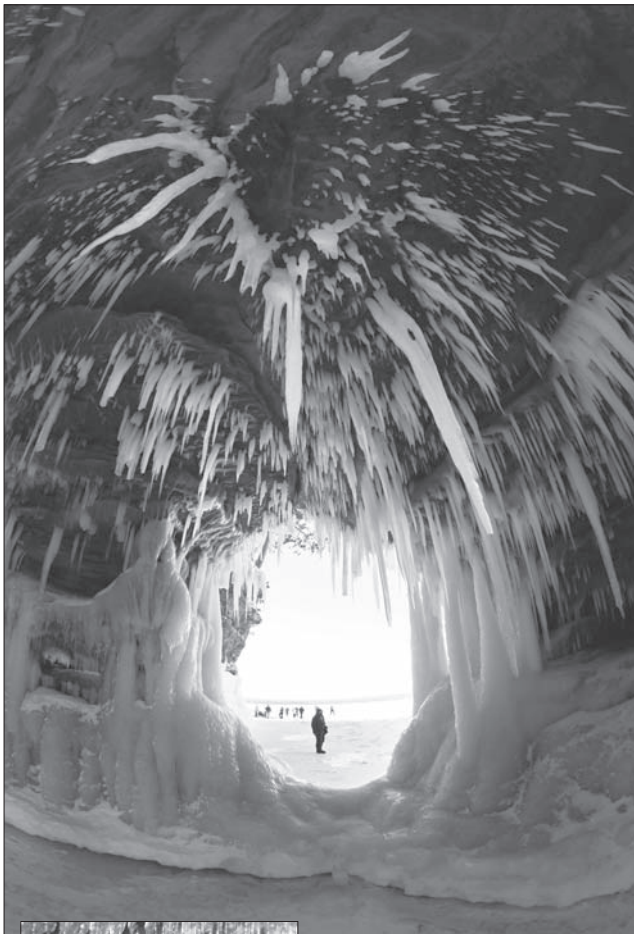
Chief Assistant City Attorney John McQuinn said the dog, Mars, is a historical crossbreed between a German shepherd and a Carpathian wolf. Such a wolf-dog is barred by Lincoln ordinance, McQuinn said.

But Kaftan said the vlcak is not a hybrid but rather a special breed, and his attorney said neither of Mars' parents is a wolf.

7 students charged with vandalizing school buses

TN ELIZABETHTON — Police charged seven East Tennessee high school students with vandalizing school buses.

Elizabethton City Schools had to shut down bus service for students on Feb. 3 after drivers arrived to find sugar had been poured into fuel tanks and several tires had been slashed. Students were



PHOTOS BY BRIAN PETERSON, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Icy, natural wonders

People visit the caves at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in northern Wisconsin, which have been transformed into a dazzling display of ice sculptures by the arctic siege gripping the Upper Midwest. The caves are usually accessible only by water, but Lake Superior's rock-solid ice cover is letting people walk to them for the first time since 2009.



Navajo Nation president blocks tax on junk food

AZ FLAGSTAFF — The Navajo Nation president has vetoed a proposal to impose an additional tax on chips, cookies and sweetened beverages on the country's largest reservation, but the legislation could be resurrected later.

President Ben Shelly supports the idea of a junk food tax as a way to combat high rates of diabetes and obesity among tribal

members and encourage healthy lifestyles, his adviser Deswood Tome said Wednesday. But Shelly said the legislation isn't clear on how the tax on snacks high in fat, sugar and salt would be enforced and regulated, according to Tome.

"He's asking the [Tribal] Council to take back this initiative and redo it so that the burden is not on the government to implement a law that is going to create hardship, especially in the collection of taxes," Tome said.

THE CENSUS

1c The original value of a rare stamp from a 19th century British colony in South America that is estimated to sell for between \$10 million and \$20 million at auction. Measuring 1 inch-by-1½ inches, the feather-light 1856 One-Cent Magenta hasn't been on public view since 1986. It is the only major stamp absent from the British Royal Family's private Royal Philatelic Collection. David Beech, longtime curator of stamps at the British Library who retired last year, compared it to buying the "Mona Lisa" of the world's most prized stamps. "This is the superstar of the stamp world," said David Redden, Sotheby's worldwide chairman of books and manuscripts, adding that the stamp will travel to London and Hong Kong before being sold. Sotheby's will auction the stamp in New York on June 17.



Anchor may help solve 200-year-old mystery

WA SEATTLE — The fisherman was diving near Whidbey Island gathering sea cucumbers when his air hose snagged on a massive object jutting from the muck at the bottom of Puget Sound.

Doug Monk followed his hose back until he reached a barnacle-encrusted hunk of metal as tall as him. It was the massive arm of an old ship's anchor.

Monk and amateur historian Scott Grimm believe they've uncovered a 900-pound stream anchor that broke free in heavy currents on June 9, 1792, from the HMS Chatham. The Chatham was an armed tender to Capt. George Vancouver's ship Discovery and eventually would be captained by Peter Puget.

The loss of the Chatham's anchor was described in logbooks and journals by a half-dozen members of the voyage, but inconsistencies in the record have made it difficult to ferret out precisely where the Chatham was at the time.

Cheery murals mounted on boarded-up homes

NV LAS VEGAS — Hoping to stave off blight, Las Vegas is taking a cue from Cincinnati and putting paint on the problem.

The City Council unveiled a pilot program last week to paint murals on the plywood used to board up windows and doors. The first boards feature colorful desert scenes with roadrunners, butterflies, tortises and cacti in cheerful primary colors.

From wire reports

WORLD

Snow polo for China's top 1 percent

Clubs seeking to satisfy elite's taste for new, exotic diversions

By JULIE MAKINEN
Los Angeles Times

TIANJIN, China — Next to buffet tables groaning with spare ribs and stir-fried noodles, the Buenos Aires Marching Band — splendid in red, white and blue regalia — tuned up for their halftime performance at the Snow Polo World Cup 2014.

Elsewhere in the clubhouse, a shiny, white, life-size horse mannequin stood harnessed to a red-and-gold carriage straight out of a Cinderella storybook. At the wine bar showcasing bottles from France and Napa Valley's Sloan Estate, a quartet of foreigners belted out "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)." Upstairs, VIPs, including the ambassadors from Chile and Argentina, sipped Champagne and grazed on foie gras, Peking duck and Spanish jamon. Outside, on a polo field covered with man-made snow, Team England was riding to victory over Chile in semifinals of the 10-day, 12-team tournament.

"I was really surprised to come here the first time and find all this," said Guillermo Terrera, an Argentine who suited up for the three-man Hong Kong China squad (alongside another Argentine and a Briton). "The organization is first-class."

Though China's association with the sport can be traced back more than a millennium, it fell out of favor for centuries, and there were no polo venues on the mainland a decade ago. As the country's capitalist economy has soared and the nation has cast off Mao-era proscriptions against bourgeois pursuits, about half a dozen polo clubs have opened in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

After taking up hobbies like golf and sports cars, China's 1 percenters are looking for new exotic diversions, and places like the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club are happy to oblige — for a price.

Basic memberships to the club — where "the new nobility gathers," according to the brochure — start at \$165,000. Or, if you've got plenty to spare, just buy a mansion in the luxury community next door (built by the same developer) and you'll be invited into the elite ranks gratis.

It's sure to visit the pavilion on your way out and see the wonderful villas here at Fortune Heights" the polo announcer boomed during a break in the action.

Among the homes that have just gone on sale at the new, 2,000-unit development are apartments priced between \$1 million and \$5 million, and stand-alone villas of between 11,000 and 60,000 square feet. (Asking price for the two-end megamansion? Upward of \$90 million.)

New-home sales in China hit a record \$1.1 trillion last year, the government said, up 27 percent over 2012, and luxury home builders are forecasting strong demand this year. Tianjin-based Sunac China Holdings, for example, said recently that its sales jumped 61 percent in 2013 over a year earlier, and it expects a 28 percent increase this year, to \$11 billion.

Despite warnings of a bubble, many



PHOTOS BY JULIE MAKINEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

England faces off Jan. 18 against Hong Kong China during the final match at the Snow Polo World Cup in Tianjin, China.



Attendants await a passenger for a horse-and-carriage ride in front of the hotel at the Tianjin Goldin Metropolitan Polo Club in Tianjin, China

Chinese still see housing as an investment with greater upside potential than low-yielding bank deposits and poorly performing stocks. (The Shanghai composite stock index fell about 35 percent between the end of 2009 and the end of 2013.) Although the government has adopted some new rules to try to curb real estate speculation, builders like Sunac say limits on supply will keep prices high.

Still, convincing China's ultrawealthy to shell out millions for a palace in a subdivision on the outskirts of a city like Tianjin, 75 miles southeast of Beijing, takes more than swimming pools, home gyms, saunas, walk-in humidors, wine cellars, mah-jongg rooms and granite-walled underground garages for 10 cars. (Yes, all are available at Fortune Heights.)

A survey released this month by the Hurun Report, which compiles an annual China Rich List, found that 64 percent of Chinese high-net-worth individuals want

to emigrate, up from 60 percent last year. The U.S. is the destination of choice, followed by Europe and Canada. Chinese investors are snapping up homes abroad, with London's Guardian newspaper reporting this month that demand from Chinese buyers was helping drive prices of British country estates and farmland to a record high of \$11,400 per acre.

So the developer behind Fortune Heights, the Hong Kong-based Goldin Group — a conglomerate with businesses including consumer electronics, financial services and vineyards, including Sloan — is peddling turnkey entree into a new aristocratic realm, with no need to fly all the way to West Sussex. All homeowners are granted membership in what the brochure calls "China's largest and most prestigious polo club."

"Our product, in one word, is lifestyle. We sell lifestyle," said Harvey Lee, a University of California, Berkeley, graduate who is vice chairman of Goldin Real Estate

Financial Holdings. "What we want to do is sell to the tip of the wealth pyramid. That is our target client. So that's why you see polo, wine and real estate development like this. This is the common link."

John Fisher, a Briton who serves as year-round director of stable operations at the Tianjin club, said that although there are challenges in bringing polo to China — such as animal welfare protocols and language barriers — the sport has a bright future in the nation.

"What they're doing here is amazing," said Fisher, who played on the Hong Kong China team at the recent tournament. "Everything here is bigger and better."

The club plans to host three other polo events this year, including a summer intervarsity tournament with teams from U.S. and British schools, including Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge.

So far, the club has more ponies (200) than members (about 60), and is buying 80 more horses from abroad this year (much to the delight of the ambassador from Argentina). The club eventually will boast three fields as well as an indoor arena, where even the specially engineered sand is imported from Britain.

If it sounds like a major outlay, it's a drop in the bucket considering the \$10 billion that Lee said Goldin is spending on the entire Tianjin development. Besides the homes, the polo club and a 167-room private hotel for club members, the company is building 10 office towers and a 117-story, 1,958-foot skyscraper (the third-tallest in China), due to be completed by 2016.

Even locals who have no hope of affording homes at Fortune Heights seem taken with the idea of a polo mecca in their midst.

"In this country, there's nothing else like this place," said Ma Cengkun, a retired engineer from Tianjin who has become well acquainted with the sport after having been invited to several events by a friend who works at the complex.

WORLD

Reefer on rise

Changing US drug policy fuels push for legal pot worldwide

By GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

In a former colonial mansion in Jamaica, politicians huddle to discuss trying to ease marijuana laws in the land of the late reggae musician and cannabis evangelist Bob Marley. In Morocco, one of the world's top producers of the concentrated pot known as hashish, two leading political parties want to legalize its cultivation, at least for medical and industrial use.

And in Argentina, the nation's drug czar, a Catholic priest who has long served in its drug-ravaged slums, is calling for a public debate about regulating marijuana.

From the Americas to Europe to North Africa and beyond, the marijuana legalization movement is gaining unprecedented traction — a nod to successful efforts in Colorado, Washington state and the small South American nation of Uruguay, which in December became the first country to approve nationwide pot legalization.

Leaders long weary of the drug war's violence and futility have been emboldened by changes in U.S. policy, even in the face of opposition from their own conservative populations. Some are eager to try an approach that focuses on public health instead of prohibition, and some see a potentially lucrative industry in cannabis regulation.

"A number of countries are saying, 'We've been curious about this, but we didn't think we could go this route,'" said Sam Kamini, a University of Denver law professor who helped write Colorado's marijuana regulations. "It's harder for the U.S. to look at other countries and say, 'You can't legalize, you can't decriminalize,' because it's going on here."

That's due largely to a White House that's more open to drug war alternatives.

U.S. President Barack Obama recently told *The New Yorker* magazine that he considers marijuana less dangerous to consumers than alcohol, and said it's important that the legalization experiments in Washington and Colorado go forward, especially because blacks are arrested for the drug at a greater rate than whites, despite similar levels of use.

His administration also has criticized drug-war-driven incarceration rates in the U.S. and announced that soon it will let banks do business with licensed marijuana operations, which largely have been cash-only because federal law forbids financial institutions from processing pot-related transactions.

Such actions underscore how the official U.S. position has

changed in recent years. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it wouldn't target medical marijuana patients. In August, the agency said it wouldn't interfere with the laws in Colorado and Washington, which regulate the growth and sale of taxed pot for recreational use.

'Discussion has changed'

Government officials and activists worldwide have taken note of the more open stance. Also not lost on them was the Obama administration's public silence before votes in both states and in Uruguay.

It all creates a "sense that the U.S. is no longer quite the drug war-obsessed government it was" and that other nations have some political space to explore reform, said Ethan Nadelmann, head of the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, a pro-legalization group based in New York.

Anxiety over U.S. reprisals previously has doused reform efforts in Jamaica, including a 2001 attempt to approve private use of marijuana by adults. Given America's evolution, "the discussion has changed," said Delano Seiveright, director of Ganja Law Reform Coalition-Jamaica.

Last summer, eight lawmakers, evenly split between the ruling People's National Party and the opposition Jamaica Labor Party, met with Nadelmann and local cannabis crusaders at a luxury hotel in Kingston's financial district and discussed next steps, including a near-term effort to decriminalize pot possession.

Officials are concerned about the roughly 300 young men each week who get criminal records for possessing small amounts of "ganja." Others in the debt-shackled nation worry about losing out on tourism dollars. Jamaica's weed is synonymous with Marley's home country, where it has long been used as a medicinal herb by families, including as a cold remedy, and as a spiritual sacrament by Rastafarians.

Influential politicians are increasingly taking up the idea of loosening pot restrictions. Jamaica's health minister recently said he was "fully on board" with medical marijuana.

"The cooperation on this issue far outweighs what I've seen before," Seiveright said. "Both sides are in agreement with the need to move forward."

Economic, social issue

In Morocco, lawmakers have been inspired by the experiments in Washington, Colorado and Uruguay to push forward their longstanding desire to allow cannabis to be grown for medical and



DAVID MCFADDEN/AP

A Rastafarian named Bongho Jatusy smokes a pipe of marijuana outside a museum dedicated to the memory of late reggae icon Bob Marley on Feb. 6 in Kingston, Jamaica.



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Norton Arbelaez, right, owner of River Rock marijuana dispensary, shows his products to foreign lawmakers during a tour of his business in Denver in October.

industrial uses. They say such a law would help small farmers who survive on the crop but live at the mercy of drug lords and police attempts to eradicate it.

"Security policies aren't solving the problem because it's an economic and social issue," said Mehdi Bensaid, a legislator with the Party of Authenticity and Modernity, a political party closely allied with the country's king. "We think this crop can become an important economic resource for Morocco and the citizens of this region."

In October, lawmakers from Uruguay, Mexico and Canada converged on Colorado for a firsthand look at how that state's law is being implemented. They toured a medical marijuana dispensary and sniffed bar-coded marijuana plants as the dispensary's owner gave them a tour.

"Mexico has outlets like that, but guarded by armed men," Mexican Congressman Ren Ulwara Montelongo said afterward.

There's no general push to legalize marijuana in Mexico, where tens of thousands have died in cartel violence in recent years. But in more liberal Mexico City, legislators are planning to pitch a further loosening of pot laws by increasing personal possession

whether to push a ballot measure in 2014 or wait until 2016's presidential election. Abroad, activists are pushing the issue before a United Nations summit in 2016.

While some European countries, including Spain, Belgium and the Czech Republic, have taken steps over the years to liberalize pot laws in the face of international treaties that limit drug production to medical and research purposes, the Netherlands, famous for its pot "coffee shops," has started to pull back, calling on cities to close shops near schools and to ban sales to tourists.

There is, however, an effort abroad to legitimize the growing of cannabis sold in the coffee shops. While it's been legal to sell pot, it's never been legal to grow it, so shops must turn to the black market for their supply, which may wind up seized in a raid.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, where some countries have decriminalized possession of small amounts of drugs, from cocaine to marijuana, there is significant public opposition to further legalization. But top officials are realizing that it is on the table, despite the longstanding efforts of the U.S., which has provided billions of dollars to support counter narcotics work in the hemisphere.

Current or former presidents in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil have called for a reevaluation of or end to the drug war, a chorus echoed by Roman Catholic priest Juan Carlos Molina, the drug czar in Argentina.

Molina said he's following orders from President Cristina Fernandez to change the government's focus from enforcing drug laws against young people to getting them into treatment. He also said after Fernandez appointed him in December that Argentine society is ready to openly debate legalizing marijuana altogether.

"I believe that Argentina deserves a good debate about this. We have the capacity to do it. The issue is fundamental for this country," Molina said in an interview with Radio Del Plata.

limits, allowing residents to grow up to three plants and allowing private pot-smoking clubs.

Opponents of legalization worry that pot could become heavily commercialized or that increased access will increase youth use. They say the other side's political victories have reawakened their cause.

"There's been a real hunger from people abroad to find out how we got ourselves into this mess in the first place and how to avoid it," said Kevin Sabat of Project Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

Washington and Colorado passed recreational-use laws in 2012 to regulate the growth and sale of taxed pot at state-licensed stores. Sales began Jan. 1 in Colorado, and are due to start later this year in Washington. Twenty states and the District of Columbia already have medical marijuana laws.

Widening effort

A number of U.S. states are considering whether to try for recreational-use laws. Voters in Alaska will have their say on a legalization measure this summer. Oregon voters also could weigh in this year, and in California, drug-reform groups are deciding

ENTERTAINMENT

No brooding hero this time

Arnett makes Batman funny in 'Lego Movie'

BY RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Will Arnett is certain he had the easiest job of any of the voice talent who worked on "The Lego Movie" because he takes on the most recognizable character: a pint-sized Batman.

Asked about the inspiration, Arnett says he read the Old Testament repeatedly. After getting the desired laugh, he offers a more serious answer: Finding the voice started during the first meetings with "The Lego Movie" directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller.

"We came up with the idea of looking at all of the Batmans who have come before — back to the Batman before the original dinosaurs — and trying to see what would make us laugh," Arnett says. "The first couple of (recording) sessions we spent a lot of time finding that voice and what was working and what wasn't working."

The fun of playing the role for Arnett was getting to change the rules when giving voice to the traditionally dark and brooding character and creating a version of Batman that doesn't follow a typical path. What Arnett and the directors decided was that the more serious Batman tried to take himself, the funnier the character became.

One of the ways they made Batman funnier was to have Arnett sing a "Batman" song. Arnett sarcastically says it was "a treat" to do because he doesn't have what's considered a traditional singing voice.

Arnett, who is chiefly known for his on-screen work — from "Arrested Development" to his current CBS com-



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Emmet, voiced by Chris Pratt, left, sets out on an epic quest to save the world with help from Wyldstyle, voiced by Elizabeth Banks, center, and Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, in "The Lego Movie."

edy series, "The Millers" — has plenty of voice-work experience. Along with "The Lego Movie," he's the voice of the squirrel Surly in the film "The Nut Job." He's also been a voice talent in "The Simpsons," "The Cleveland Show," "The Secret World of Arrietty," "Despicable Me," "Sit Down, Shut Up," "Monsters vs. Aliens: Mutant Pumpkins from Outer Space" and "Ratatouille." Arnett also has a new animated series in the works for Netflix.

Voice work helped Arnett pay the bills when he was starting out. Now, it's become what Arnett calls "a fancy second job" he looks forward to.

"It's such a fun world. I love doing voice work because it's such a fun process," Arnett says. "I like it because you can go and be in a different world."

The worlds couldn't be much different with the two movies now in theaters, where he goes from self-centered squirrel to self-confident superhero. And both voice jobs are much different than the work he's doing on the CBS sitcom "The Millers," where he plays a newly single television reporter whose mother (Margo Martindale) moves in with him.

The comic chemistry between Arnett and Martindale has helped make "The Millers" a top-rated new comedy. Arnett says the series just happened to have the right cast and writing to give him a hit.

Not only does voice work help pay the bills, but being in "The Lego Movie" has won him some added adulation from his 3-year-old son.

"He keeps calling it 'The Lego/Batman Movie,'" Arnett says.

Will Arnett provides the voice of an overconfident Batman Lego figurine in "The Lego Movie."

DAN STEINBERG, INVISION/AP

MUSIC

Broken Bells, from left:
James Mercer and Brian Burton.

JAMES MINCHIN/Courtesy of Nasty Little Man



Finding their groove

Broken Bells fuses melody, strong beats on second album, 'After the Disco'

Broken Bells

After the Disco (Columbia)

The debut from Broken Bells — the high-profile duo of James Mercer from indie-rock darlings The Shins, and in-demand producer Brian Burton (aka Danger Mouse), currently nominated for an Oscar for his work with U2 — was an interesting combination of their disparate musical styles.

On their follow-up, "After the Disco," however, Broken Bells has built an identity all its own that combines Mercer's knack for melody and Danger Mouse's love of strong beats and clever production.

The single "Holding On for Life" seems to



to be the chillout that people put on to relax after a night of dancing, with pretty, acoustic-driven numbers like the haunting "Leave It Alone" and the charming, guitar-driven "Control," they still

capture this new vibe best, with the jangling guitars and Mercer's falsetto that is reminiscent of Barry Gibb balancing against layers of synthesizer riffs and, of course, a deep groove.

While most of the album is designed to be the chillout that people put on to relax after a night of dancing, with pretty, acoustic-driven numbers like the haunting "Leave It Alone" and the charming, guitar-driven "Control," they still

include some potent floor-fillers. The title track is a thrilling slice of electro-pop paired with a bass groove dripping with Roxy Music cool and stacks of sampled vocals that add to the fun. "Medicine" works equally well, as it tries to offer enough icy, electronic beats and "Let's Dance"-era David Bowie references to distract from the lyrics outlining the world's issues.

Danger Mouse talks about how Broken Bells has become his priority, how his production works and his other projects like Gnarls Barkley have become secondary. That attention shows on "After the Disco," and it's sure to make Broken Bells a major success.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

MUSIC



TWIN PEAKS

Church brings out his rock, country personas on career-best album

Eric Church

The Outsiders (EMI Nashville)

Eric Church is developing separate and distinct personalities that seem to wrestle each other in a glorious battle royal on his fourth and best album, "The Outsiders."

There's that guy Chief, with the hat and sunglasses and the love of rock 'n' roll, whiskey, stubborn streaks and fistfights. Then there's the version of Church who wins (or loses) the girl, stirs moments of universal reverie and tickles the

funny bone with program director-wooling hits that appeal to country music's bedrock fan base.

Both are at their best on "The Outsiders," one-upping each other with songs that embrace the breadth and history of country music while ignoring those conventions to explore far afield. Managing this trick requires a delicate touch, and Church and producer Jay Joyce push the limits while maintaining a balance that leaves a little something for everyone.

Don't like the heavy rock riffs and leather jacket-clad message of the Black Sabbath-leaning title song? Well, there's the tear-jerker ballad "A Man Who Was Gonna Die Young."

Tired of the paint-by-numbers party songs that flood radio? His answer is "Cold One," which offers a twist on a tired theme. Need a couples song for you and your new country gal? Try "Talladega," which somehow turns auto racing into an epic love poem. "Give Me Back My Hometown" is straight-up nostalgia. If that's not your thing, there's the rock-informed "Dark Side," "That's Damn Rock & Roll" and "The Joint" to go with your shot and beer back.

Tempo-shifting "Roller Coaster Ride" and funky country "Broke Record" use sonic interpretations of Church's lyrics to rev up things. The organ on "Like a Wrecking Ball" and the trumpet at the end of "The Joint" are delightful moments that show Church is confident that his listeners are his to command. He even tries his hand at spoken-word noir on "Devil, Devil!" The album is full of flourishes like these that aren't necessary but show a restless creativity that requires repeated listening.

"The Outsiders" is the rare album that invites debate, and asks us to take sides. In this case, pick freely. You can't lose.

—Chris Talbott
The Associated Press



Eric Church honors country music while pushing more into rock territory on "The Outsiders."

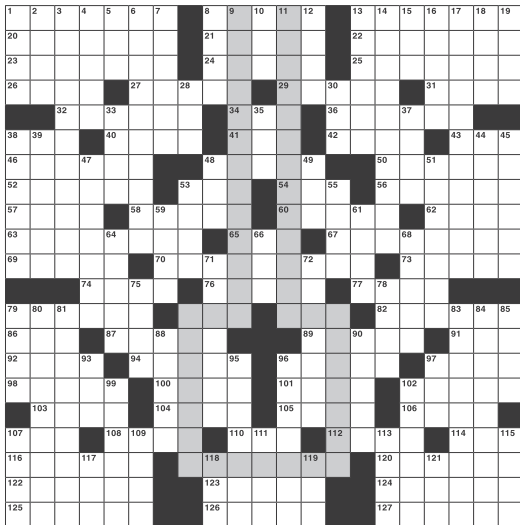
DAN HARR, INVISION/AP

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO By CHARLES M. DEBER / Edited by W.H. Shortz

- ACROSS
- 1 Cellphones, in Britain
- 8 Alone
- 13 Down, in Dresden
- 20 A debater takes it
- 21 Jazz count?
- 22 In that direction
- 23 One favoring a strong central government
- 24 — Vista
- 25 Turns in
- 26 Film terrier
- 27 Bar order, with "the"
- 29 Sadness
- 31 Narrow cut
- 32 Move in an ungainly way
- 34 Mine, in Madrid
- 36 Cherished by
- 38 Literary inits.
- 40 It's below the humerus
- 41 Trig. function
- 42 "Let —"
- 43 — defenses
- 46 Dweller on the Red Sea
- 48 Less than right
- 50 Crème de la crème
- 52 1996-2001 show featuring home videos
- 53 Actress Gardner
- 54 The People's Champion
- 56 "The Battleship Potemkin" locale
- 57 An O'Neill
- 58 More appropriate
- 60 Houston sch.
- 62 Followers of exes
- 63 Detour, e.g.
- 65 Coal distillate
- 67 Announcer's aid
- 69 Plural French word that spells its singular English form in reverse
- 70 Much of the audience for 6-Down's show on 2/9/64
- 73 Trounces
- 74 "When —, so much younger, so much younger ..." ("Help!" lyric)
- 76 More modern, in Munich
- 77 Relative of a convertible
- 79 Part of a train from a refinery
- 82 Servant, e.g.
- 86 "Why —, so shy when?" ("It's Only Love" lyric)
- 87 Snack chip
- 89 Nest on a cliff
- 91 Author Umberto
- 93 Dave Clark —
- 94 — the time ..."
- 96 Playwright Fugard
- 97 General chicken
- 98 Attractive in legs, in slang
- 100 "Yuck"
- 101 Act Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
- 102 Bold
- 103 Stuck, after "in"
- 104 Queen who fell for Zeus' swan song?
- 105 It may be a plot
- 106 Lone-Star State sch.
- 107 500 letters?
- 108 Cause of the witch's demise in "Hansel and Gretel"
- 110 '60s war zone
- 112 Rice-A—
- 114 Fraternity chapter
- 116 Big to-do
- 120 They're played at un conservative
- 122 Undermines, as support
- 123 Living in a swing state?
- 124 Kind of jacket with pockets on the chest
- 125 Tilted
- 126 Oxford's St. — College
- 127 City on the Seine upstream from Paris
- DOWN
- 1 A majority
- 2 Aware of
- 3 Craze caused by this puzzle's subjects
- 4 Schoolday rejoinder
- 5 Card count in Caesar's Palace?
- 6 Host for this puzzle's subjects on 2/9/64
- 7 Places atop
- 8 Eban of Israel
- 9 With 11-Down, subjects of this puzzle
- 10 Enzyme suffix
- 11 See 9-Down
- 12 Rampage
- 13 Way to go
- 14 Nickname for this puzzle's subjects
- 15 Free
- 16 Bikini blast, informally
- 17 Song sung by this puzzle's subjects on 6-Down's show on 2/9/64
- 18 Big rig
- 19 Lead-in to while
- 28 — creek
- 30 Dictator Amin
- 33 Broadway's "Fontaine Theater"
- 35 Prime of payment
- 37 Frist's successor as Senate majority leader
- 38 One of the six counties of Northern Ireland
- 39 Escort to the door
- 44 Yes
- 45 Balanced conditions
- 47 Band material
- 48 Park, e.g., in N.Y.C.
- 49 Wallach of "The Malitch"
- 51 Subtitle for "Star Wars Episode IV," with "A"
- 53 Just so, after "to"
- 55 Bakeshop worker
- 59 Free throw avg., e.g.



- 61 One team in the N.B.A. All-Star Game, with "the"
- 64 City on the Nile
- 66 Junior Olympics org.
- 68 Certain NASA launch
- 71 Had a ball at
- 72 Unpredictable
- 73 Composer Khachaturian
- 78 Slave
- 79 Apes
- 80 Apes
- 81 Where this puzzle's subjects got their start
- 83 Song sung by this puzzle's subjects on 6-Down's show on 9/12/65
- 84 Earth's habitable parts
- 85 Dawnlike
- 88 Common monthly expense
- 90 Ladies' man
- 93 Prey for a dingo
- 95 Molly formerly on "S.N.L."
- 96 Like some dessert
- 111 Soon
- 113 Be domestic
- 97 King in 1922 news
- 99 Hot
- 102 Instrument depicted by the shaded squares in this grid
- 107 1965 and 1966 concert site for this puzzle's subjects
- 109 Sweeping
- 113 Be domestic
- 115 Medical suffix
- 117 Calendar keeper, for short
- 118 Medical suffix
- 119 The "S" of CBS: Abbr.
- 121 Sci-fi sighting

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at Stripes.com/blogs.

TRAVEL

Priceless places



AP

"Mad" King Ludwig's idyllic Neuschwanstein Castle in the Bavarian Alps was the Nazis' hideaway for about 21,000 items stolen from French collectors and records of the looting.

Historic tale set in real-life locations

By JAMIE STENGEL
The Associated Press

From a fairy-tale castle in the Bavarian Alps to a serene Michelangelo sculpture of Mary and Jesus tucked away in a Belgian church, sites and works of art across Europe can give travelers a glimpse of the heroic work done by the group depicted in the new movie "The Monuments Men."

The group's mission was to save cultural treasures during World War II. And just like the group's previously unsung accomplishments, many of the places and objects they saved have been "hidden in plain sight" for decades, said Robert Edsel, the Dallas-based author of the book "The Monuments Men," which inspired the movie.

Edsel talked about a few of the many places and artworks in Europe tied to the work of the 350 men and women from Allied countries, most of them already established as architects, artists, curators and museum directors when they reported for duty. Eventually, they returned more than five million cultural items stolen by the Nazis as part of a systematic looting operation.

Belgium and Austria

Visitors to the canal-lined, storybook town of Bruges, Belgium, may look in awe at Michelangelo's marble sculpture "Madonna and Child" in the Church of Our Lady, but few know of its harrowing wartime journey. Taken from the church by German officers in 1944, the sculpture was dis-

covered by Monuments Men on a dirty mattress in a salt mine near Altaussee in Austria.

In Ghent, not far from Bruges, visitors at Saint Bavo Cathedral can gaze at another work that was discovered by Monuments Men at the Altaussee mine: the Ghent Altarpiece. Made of panels painted by Jan van Eyck in 1432, the famous work was taken by the Belgians to France in 1940 for safekeeping. But in 1942 it was taken by the Germans.

Tourists can also visit the Altaussee salt mine where those works — along with 6,600 paintings, 140 sculptures and other pieces — filled more than 100 tunnels. The art stored in the Austrian mine about 45 minutes from Salzburg housed treasures Adolf Hitler wanted to one day fill his planned museum in Linz, Austria.

A mad king's castle

"Mad" King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle, nestled in Germany's Bavarian Alps with dramatic turrets rising into the sky, was the Nazis' hideaway for about 21,000 items stolen from French collectors and records of the looting.

Monuments Man John Davis Skilton arrived in the German town of Würzburg in hopes of saving the Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's ceiling fresco "Allegory of the Planets and Continents." The fresco in the Residenz palace dating to the 1750s was in peril: The roof above the fresco ceiling burned off during Allied bombings, leaving it exposed to the elements.

Edsel said Skilton set to figuring out how to get a roof built over the fresco as soon as possible. "He sees how precarious it is, so he finds lumber, which was no easy feat," said Edsel. "When you go walk through the palace Residenz, in the last room that you're in, there's a small shrine to John Skilton," he said.

Paris

When the Nazis took over the Jeu de Paume museum in Paris, making it the headquarters of their looting operation, French art expert Rose Valland was allowed to stay. But Valland, who, unbeknownst to the Nazis, spoke German, kept track of where the artworks — most of it stolen from Jewish families in France — were being sent. She passed that information along to Monuments Man James Rorimer after the liberation of Paris, directing him to Germany's Neuschwanstein Castle. Today, a small plaque on the southwest corner of the Jeu de Paume, located near the Place de la Concorde, recognizes her bravery.

To see a work of art with a history that encapsulates the Nazi looting machine, Edsel says, gaze upon Jan Vermeer's painting "The Astronomer" at the Louvre. "If we could take it off the wall, it would have a Nazi inventory code on the back," he said.

"That one picture is stolen from the Rothschilds, goes to the Jeu de Paume. It's selected for Hitler's museum ... It ends up in the salt mine at Altaussee, found by the Monuments officers, returned with all these other things



Courtesy of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art of Dallas

Monuments Man James Rorimer, with note pad, supervises American GIs carrying paintings down the steps of Neuschwanstein castle in Schwangau, southern Germany, in May 1945.



Courtesy of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art of Dallas

Monuments Man George Stout, second from right, leads a team removing Michelangelo's Brugges Madonna from the salt mine in Altaussee, Austria, on July 10, 1945.



Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration

George Stout, third from left, helps move the central panel of the Ghent Altarpiece in Altaussee, Austria, in July 1945.

to France, returned to the Rothschilds, donated to the Louvre," he said.

Florence and Pisa

In Italy, Florence's bridges today offer a look at cultural treasures that didn't survive the war. Except for the Ponte Vecchio, the city's famous covered bridge, other bridges over the Arno were destroyed by the Nazis as they made their retreat out of Italy in 1944. Pictures from the war show people walking across the rubble that was once the bridges. Edsel says the now rebuilt bridges are "part of the altered legacy that we

live with today."

Monuments Man Deane Keller's work to restore the heavily damaged Camposanto building in Pisa meant so much to him that he was buried there after his 1992 death. During the war, frescoes in the ancient cemetery located near the city's Leaning Tower were damaged by a fire during a fight for the city. Keller worked with a team to salvage and save what they could.

For more information on art preservation in World War II, visit the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art at monumentsmenfoundation.org

MOVIES

The Monuments Men found and restituted almost 5 million art and cultural objects — paintings, drawings, sculpture and religious objects — many stolen by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, according to the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art.

THE REAL MONUMENTS MEN

The Associated Press

The characters in the new George Clooney film “The Monuments Men” were inspired by real people who worked to save cultural treasures across Europe during World War II. Filmmakers fictionalized some of the characters, but the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, founded by Robert Edsel, who wrote the book the movie is based on, matched some of the cast with the real people.

Monuments Men James Romer, left, and Sgt. Antonio Valin examine art that was stolen from the Rothschild collection in France and recovered in Germany in 1945. In “The Monuments Men,” Matt Damon plays a character inspired by Romer.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION/AP



AND THE ACTORS WHO PLAY THEM



■ George Clooney, left, plays Frank Stokes, inspired by George Stout, a Harvard art conservationist who had served in World War I. Edsel said it was Stout's idea to create the group that eventually became the Monuments Men. “Every time they would find discoveries, the word went out to find Stout because he was such an even, steady hand. And he was methodical and he was calm,” Edsel said. Stout left Europe in July 1945 and was sent to Japan in October, where he volunteered his services as a Monuments Man there. He later resumed his position as head of the conservation department at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum. In 1947, he became director of the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts. In 1955, he became director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, where he remained until 1970. He died in 1978 at the age of 80.



■ Bob Balaban, right, portrays Preston Savitz, a character based on Lincoln Kirstein. Before the war, Kirstein co-founded the School of American Ballet. After the war, he co-founded what became the New York City Ballet and served as its general director until 1989. He died in 1996 at age 88.



■ John Goodman, left, portrays Walter Garfield, inspired by sculptor Walker Hancock. After the war he returned to his post as head of the sculpture department at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he remained until 1967. He also continued to create sculptures, including a bust of President George H.W. Bush for the rotunda of the Capitol. He died in 1998 at the age of 96.



■ Matt Damon plays James Granger, inspired by museum director James Romer. After graduating from Harvard, he went to work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Largely responsible for developing the Met's medieval collections, he became curator of the building that housed them, known as the Cloisters, when it opened in 1938. He became Cloisters director after the war in 1949, and became director of the museum in 1955, a position he held until his death in 1966 at age 60 from a heart attack.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES/AP



■ Cate Blanchett plays Claire Simone, inspired by Rose Valland, a French art expert who managed to secretly record where artworks stolen by the Nazis in France were being shipped. During the German occupation of Paris, the Nazis used the Jeu de Paume museum as headquarters for their art-looting operation. The Germans kept Valland on, but unbeknownst to them, she spoke German. She died in 1980 at the age of 81.



■ Dimitri Leonidas, left, portrays Sam Epstein, inspired by Harry Ettlinger, one of a handful of Monuments Men still living. He fled Nazi Germany with his family the day after his bar mitzvah in 1938 and returned to Europe in 1945 with the U.S. Army. Ettlinger volunteered to be a Monuments Man when he learned they needed someone who spoke German. His first assignment was to help interview Adolf Hitler's personal photographer. After the war, Ettlinger earned master's degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration and went on to be deputy program director of a company that produced guidance systems for submarine-launched nuclear weapons.

‘Monuments Men’ pulls A-team cast

BY MARCELA ISAZA
The Associated Press

When a leading Hollywood actor decides to make a movie, casting usually becomes as easy as dialing some of your closest A-list buddies.

At least that's the way it worked for George Clooney on the new World War II drama, “The Monuments Men.”

“Well, they are friends so that part is easy,” Clooney said in a recent joint interview with the cast. “But you know the truth is, they wouldn't do it if they didn't like the screenplay... I mean, I flew to Australia for one day to hand Cate (Blanchett) the script.”

The beginning of the film has an “Ocean's 11” feel to it when Clooney's character starts to assemble an A-team of old friends. But this time, they're the good guys.

“The Monuments Men” — also starring Blanchett, Matt Damon, John Goodman and Bill Murray, to name a few — is based on the true story of an Allied platoon whose mission was to rescue artworks from the Nazis. The film is adapted from Robert Edsel's book “The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History.”

Blanchett admitted she was unfamiliar with the works of the Monuments Men until she received the hand-delivered script from Clooney, who also directed and was co-writer.

“I knew that work had gone missing and that the Nazis had collected art and stolen art and destroyed art,” said Blanchett.

Bill Murray was happy to finally work on a big film again. “Yeah, I got teased for a while (by George Clooney). He told me the whole story and then he would say, ‘Can you please pass the salad?’ Then like nine months later through a friend, he said, ‘Ask Bill if he wants to be in the job.’”

Murray wasn't the only one who was pranked by Clooney. His father, Nick Clooney, received the final and biggest prank of all.

“Well, I screened the movie for him in Italy,” said George Clooney. “My father plays me at the end of the film and walks off into this beautiful church with this beautiful light and it goes to black and normally that would be like the first credit that comes up and instead I put, ‘In Loving Memory of Nick Clooney.’ I said, ‘What the hell are you doing?’ I said, ‘Well, you know, it's a long time before the movie comes out so you never know.’ I didn't leave it in the film but he thought it was very funny and he is going to get me back.”

The movie originally had a planned release date of Dec. 18 but was pushed to early 2014 and right out of Hollywood's prestigious awards season. This year was especially crowded with Oscar contenders. So was there too much competition?

“We just didn't finish it,” Clooney said. “We had a lot of work to do. It's a bigger film. You know, we started shooting this movie in March of last year, so we were going to have to flip it around in nine months... and we just didn't make it.”

BUSINESS/WEATHER

S&P 500 logs its best week of year

By STEVE ROTHWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market closed out its best week of the year on Friday as investors focused on company earnings and brushed off another weak economic report.

Campbell Soup climbed after reporting earnings that beat the estimates of Wall Street analysts. Cliffs Natural Resources, a mining company, also jumped after its earnings beat analysts' expectations and the company named a new Chief Executive Officer.

The Standard & Poor's 500 has wiped out almost all of its loss for the year after a big slump in January, and is now just 10 points below its record close of 1,848 reached Jan. 15. Stocks slumped last month because of concerns about the outlook for growth in China and other emerging markets and worries about the health of the U.S. economy.

"For all practical purposes, we're back," said Jonathan

Golub, Chief U.S. Market Strategist at RBC Capital Markets. "We've effectively recovered this pullback."

The S&P 500 rose 8.80 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,838.63. For the week, the index rose 2.3 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 126.80 points, or 0.8 percent, to 16,154.39. The Nasdaq composite rose 3.35 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,244.03, its highest close since July 2000.

The stock market got a lift on Tuesday when Janet Yellen, the new head of the Federal Reserve, said she would continue the central bank's low-interest-rate policies and as Congress moved toward raising the U.S. borrowing limit without the political drama of last year.

The stock market started lower Friday following news that U.S. factory output fell sharply in January. Manufacturers made fewer cars and trucks, appliances, furniture and carpeting, as the recent cold spell ended five straight

months of increased production.

The Federal Reserve said factory production plunged 0.8 percent in January, following gains of 0.3 percent in both December and November.

Investors are hopeful that much of the weakness seen in recent economic reports is due in large part to the unusually cold winter weather this year, said Kristina Hooper, US investment strategist at Allianz Global Investors.

"Investors are choosing to look at very mixed data through a positive lens," Hooper said.

By late morning, stocks had edged higher. They kept on rising throughout the day.

Among the big gainers, Campbell Soup rose \$2.04, or 5 percent, to \$43.01 after the company reported that its second-quarter profit and revenue came in above Wall Street's expectations. Campbell Soup also stood by its 2014 forecasts for sales and earnings growth. Cliffs Natural Resources climbed \$1.26, or 5.8 percent, to \$23.16 after its own earnings beat

analysts' forecasts.

About 80 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 now have reported earnings for the fourth quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. Earnings are forecast to rise 7.8 percent compared with the same period a year ago and 5.6 percent in the third quarter of 2013.

Among the day's losers were clothing retailer Men's Wearhouse and Weight Watchers International.

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 14, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	+126.80
	16,154.39
Nasdaq composite	+3.35
	4,244.03
Standard & Poor's 500	+8.80
	1,838.63
Russell 2000	+1.43
	1,149.21

EXCHANGE RATES

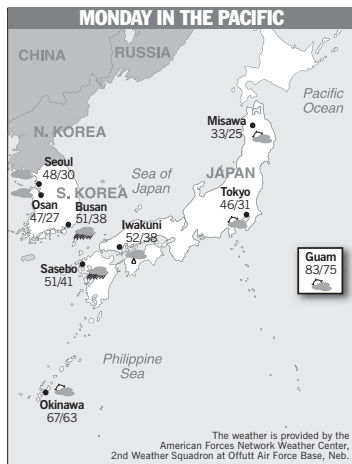
Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 17)	\$1.4051
Dollar buys (Feb. 17)	€0.7117
British pound (Feb. 17)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Feb. 17)	¥99.00
South Korean won (Feb. 17)	₩1,034.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6717/0.9982
Canada (dollar)	1.0980
China (Yuan)	6.0670
Denmark (Krone)	5.4523
Egypt (Pound)	6.9649
Euro	\$1.3673/0.7213
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7553
Hungary (Forint)	236.49
Israel (Shekel)	3.5131
Japan (Yen)	101.85
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1019
Philippines (Peso)	44.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.30
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2612
South Korea (Won)	1,059.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9828
Thailand (Baht)	32.33
Turkey (Lira)	2.1849

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), which cover your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.10
Federal funds market rate	0.06
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	3.70

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Tex	81	47	Pdly	Chatanooga	50	27	Pdly	Fort Wayne	26	14	Pdly	Louisville	39	25	Pdly	Pocatello	48	37	Snow
Akron, Ohio	25	11	Cldy	Chicago	60	34	Cldy	Fresno	70	49	Cldy	Lubbock	83	35	Cldy	Portland, Maine	28	20	Snow
Albany, N.Y.	21	14	Pdly	Cincinnati	47	24	Cldy	Goodland	61	30	Cldy	Macon	62	27	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	47	40	Rain
Albuquerque	71	40	Pdly	Cleveland	23	11	Cldy	Grand Rapids	25	10	Cldy	Medford	54	37	Cldy	Pueblo	68	23	Pdly
Allentown, Pa.	27	16	Pdly	Colorado Springs	64	34	Pdly	Great Falls	45	36	Cldy	Memphis	57	35	Pdly	Reno	48	26	Pdly
Amarillo	76	32	Pdly	Columbia, S.C.	58	28	Pdly	Green Bay	20	6	Pdly	Miami Beach	77	55	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	48	26	Pdly
Anchorage	24	13	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	63	32	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	45	26	Pdly	Midland-Odessa	57	35	Pdly	San Antonio	59	26	Pdly
Asheville	48	22	Pdly	Columbus, Ohio	30	14	Cldy	Hartford	57	26	Pdly	Midwaukee	24	13	Cldy	Richmond	43	24	Cldy
Atlanta	57	31	Pdly	Concord, N.H.	24	14	Cldy	Hartford	57	26	Pdly	Minneapolis	24	4	Cldy	Roanoke	43	21	Cldy
Atlantic City	31	17	Pdly	Corpus Christi	80	59	Cldy	Helena	46	32	Cldy	Missoula	40	33	Snow	Rochester	19	10	Cldy
Austin	78	63	Pdly	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	45	Pdly	Honolulu	78	69	Cldy	Mobile	69	35	Cldy	Rockford	59	10	Cldy
Baltimore	30	18	Cldy	Dayton	29	15	Cldy	Houston	75	52	Cldy	Montgomery	65	36	Cldy	Sacramento	65	48	Pdly
Baton Rouge	71	42	Cldy	Daytona Beach	67	39	Cldy	Huntsville	56	30	Pdly	Nashville	50	29	Pdly	St. Louis	38	27	Cldy
Bilings	48	32	Cldy	Denver	63	33	Pdly	Indianapolis	31	19	Cldy	New Orleans	46	28	Cldy	St. Petersburg	67	51	Cldy
Birmingham	61	35	Cldy	Des Moines	31	15	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	67	36	Cldy	New York City	27	21	Snow	St. Thomas	86	75	Pdly
Bismarck	33	8	Cldy	Detroit	25	11	Cldy	Jacksonville	65	33	Cldy	Newark	29	20	Snow	Salt Lake City	49	39	Rain
Boise	48	38	Cldy	Duluth	17	2	Cldy	Janeau	34	26	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	42	28	Pdly	Salt Lake City	55	42	Snow
Boston	28	21	Cldy	El Paso	82	56	Cldy	Kansas City	43	24	Pdly	North Platte	59	24	Pdly	San Antonio	90	45	Cldy
Bridgeport	27	18	Snow	Elkins	33	11	Snow	Key West	63	37	Cldy	Oklahoma City	56	38	Pdly	San Diego	71	55	Pdly
Brownsville	77	62	Cldy	Erie	21	10	Cldy	Knoxville	50	27	Cldy	Omaha	40	22	Cldy	San Francisco	59	50	Pdly
Buffalo	17	8	Cldy	Eugene	49	38	Rain	Lake Charles	70	46	Pdly	Orlando	70	42	Cldy	San Jose	67	47	Pdly
Burlington, Vt.	18	11	Snow	Evansville	49	38	Pdly	Lansing	39	23	Cldy	Pasadena	46	28	Cldy	Santa Fe	66	33	Pdly
Caribou, Maine	18	11	Snow	Fairbanks	-15	-5	Snow	Las Vegas	77	57	Pdly	Pendleton	48	28	Cldy	Seattle	46	40	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	59	37	Cldy	Fargo	23	4	Cldy	Lexington	38	23	Cldy	Perth, Wash.	28	17	Cldy	St. Louis	44	31	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	61	32	Cldy	Flagstaff	61	31	Cldy	Lincoln	48	23	Pdly	Philadelphia	28	17	Pdly	Savannah	61	32	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	50	27	Pdly	Fort Smith	64	34	Pdly	Little Rock	60	34	Pdly	Phoenix	85	57	Pdly	Seattle	46	40	Cldy
				Fort Smith	64	34	Pdly	Los Angeles	73	54	Pdly	Pittsburgh	28	12	Cldy	Shreveport	70	40	Pdly

National temperature extremes

Hi: Fr., 95, Honda, Texas
Lo: Fr., -27, Rabbit, Minn. and Cran

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fr., 95, Honda, Texas
Lo: Fr., 27, Babbitt, Minn. and Crane Lake, Minn.

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OPINION

Let post offices branch out into loans

By KEVIN HERRIGAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

To say that turning post offices into banking centers is a good idea would be wrong. No, this is a spectacular idea.

Here's the U.S. Postal Service, forever on the verge of bankruptcy. It has threatened to close post office branches and stop Saturday delivery. The price of a first-class stamp just went up 3 cents to 49 cents. And so forth.

Last year it cut its operating losses to \$5 billion; believe it or not, that's good. The USPS makes its own money, but answers to Congress anyway, and Congress says it must fund its pension liabilities 75 years into the future; last year that cost \$5.6 billion.

If post offices offered basic banking services, the postal service could easily scrape off 10 percent of the \$89 billion spent on "alternative financial services" each year. That money is spent largely by the 68 million American adults who don't have bank accounts. They pay their bills with cash or money orders. The average unbanked household spends \$2,412 a year on alternative financial services, often falling prey to so-called payday lenders.

The average payday loan is for \$375. It carries an average effective annual interest rate of 391 percent. Most are paid back over 4½ months, costing \$520 on top of the principal. The post office could make money by charging 28 percent interest, even giving the customer an extra month to pay. The \$375 loan would cost only \$48 in fees and interest.

Now it might be argued that turning post offices into banking centers would be unfair to payday lenders, title lenders, rent-to-own centers and pawnshops. The proper response to that is, "What goes around, comes around."

This spectacular idea has been kicked around by policy wonks for years.

This spectacular idea has been kicked around by policy wonks for years; indeed, until 1967 the postal service operated a kind of savings bank. But on Jan. 27, the big idea received a ringing endorsement in a white paper issued by David C. Williams, the postal service's inspector general.

Williams' proposal was quickly seconded by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. In an article in The Huffington Post, she noted that unbanked households spend about the same on predatory interest rates and fees as they do on food.

"If the Postal Service offered basic banking services — nothing fancy, just basic bill paying, check cashing and small dollar loans — then it could provide affordable financial services for underserved families, and, at the same time, shore up its own financial footing."

Another positive: The postal service owns or leases a lot of real estate — 35,000 parcels. Thirty-eight percent of them are in ZIP codes where there are no commercial banks. An additional 21 percent are in ZIP codes with only one bank.

(Of course, in many of these ZIP codes, there are lots of payday loan outlets.)

So if this is such an obviously spectacular idea — and repeat, it is — why hasn't it been adopted?

Part of the answer is inertia. The postal service likes being the postal service, not a bank, even if it means it has to close branches and stop Saturday mail delivery. Change is hard.

Change would require modifying offices and retraining personnel, but most business would be done electronically. The sys-

tem could start by selling pre-paid cards that could be used to withdraw cash or pay bills, the IG report said.

Eventually, if a customer had his paycheck loaded onto his postal card, he could become eligible for a cash loan. The report suggests a \$25 loan fee and an annual interest rate of 25 percent.

It's obviously a better deal than a payday loan, which is why the industry would fight it to the death. If we're lucky.

Big banks might hate it, too, even though unbanked customers are, by definition, not their customers. Payday lenders are. A study by the advocacy group National People's Action found that in 2009, major banks provided at least \$1.5 billion in credit to payday lenders. The study found that one bank, Wells Fargo, financed 32 percent of America's 23,000 payday loan stores.

Big banks have a lot of clout in Congress, on both sides of the aisle. "They frankly own the place," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., blurted on a radio talk show in 2009.

But this may be the very best part of the spectacular idea: The postal service may not need congressional approval to get into the banking services industry.

"The 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act generally prohibits the Postal Service from offering new non-postal services," Williams' report says. "However, given that the Postal Service is already providing money orders and other types of non-bank financial services, it could explore additional options within its existing authority."

This would be bold, an adjective not usually associated with the postal service. But it could do an awful lot of good for an awful lot of people who today fall victim to vultures, which liberals will like. It might encourage thrift and savings, which conservatives will like. Spectacular.

Kevin Herrigan is a St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist.

Don't limit help for those raped in wartime

By BRIAN ATWOOD AND PETER FENN

An 18-year-old Free Syrian Army soldier was jailed in the fall of 2012, and Syrian government troops brought his fiancée, sisters, mother and female neighbors to the prison. But this wasn't a regular visitation, according to Women Under Siege, a group affiliated with the Women's Media Center. Each of these women was raped in front of the prisoner.

Sexual violence is a primary reason women and girls are fleeing Syria, according to the International Rescue Committee. It is not new for rape to be used as a weapon of war, nor for pregnancies to result from those rapes. As many as 50,000 women and girls were raped in Bosnia; more than 250,000 were raped in Rwanda. Reports from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan indicate that rape is increasingly being used as a weapon in those war zones. This horrific act is designed to terrorize and paralyze whole segments of society.

And often, U.S. aid workers can only turn their backs when pregnant rape victims ask for help, because they are subject to a directive that prohibits providing comprehensive health services.

How did it come to pass that the United States, one of the world's most generous providers of humanitarian assistance, would constrain its response to this gross violation of human rights? The answer

lies in the morass of U.S. social-issue politics. So does the solution: In the midst of the decades-long disputes over abortion, a compromise was reached on exceptions that should apply equally to humanitarian operations.

The 1973 "Helms amendment" restricts the use of U.S. foreign assistance funds for abortions "as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions." The consequence of rape has nothing to do with family planning, as numerous legal experts outside government have rightly concluded. Historical and current political compromises have established three exceptions — rape, incest and life-endangerment — as cases in which U.S. taxpayer funds can be spent on abortion.

An executive order is needed to set the record straight: that what is done in humanitarian operations overseas is in line with the exceptions embodied in U.S. law.

The president has the authority to correct a long-standing misinterpretation of the Helms amendment. He should do so with full confidence that Americans would strongly support this action.

A national poll conducted last month by Lake Research Partners for the Center for Health and Gender Equity found that Americans overwhelmingly support such an executive order. Fifty-seven percent of respondents agreed that the president "should issue an executive order to allow foreign assistance to support comprehen-

sive health care, including safe abortions for women in the cases of rape, incest, and when a woman's life is in danger."

Seventy-one percent agreed that abortion should be allowed in cases in which a pregnancy is a result of rape. Only 21 percent disagreed.

Thousands of rape victims die each year — in desperation, they seek to escape their trauma using dangerous means. Simply by applying a law correctly, the United States could join a growing number of donors responding to this pandemic. The shift would require no new law, only a presidential clarification that would allow government resources to be used when women request to end a pregnancy in cases of rape, incest or life endangerment.

This fundamental human-rights issue can no longer be ignored. It deserves a presidential declaration that will right a long-standing wrong.

The president should correct a misinterpretation of the Helms amendment that apparently was based on avoiding a threat to family planning that no longer exists. It should be U.S. government policy to support the victims of one of the harshest war crimes imaginable.

Brian Atwood is chairman of global studies at the United States' Department of State's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He was administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development during the Clinton administration. Peter Fenn, a longtime Democratic political strategist, was a top aide to Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, from 1975 to 1981. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

Israelis should show Kerry some gratitude

By URI DROMI
The Miami Herald

John Kerry is not the first U.S. secretary of state trying to broker peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Nor the first to be rewarded with angry Israeli response for his efforts.

James Baker, for one, is still perceived today as one of the secretaries most hostile to Israel. Kerry, on the other hand, has always been an ardent supporter of Israel. That he should receive a negative, even vicious, reaction from Israelis for his Herculean labors, is wrong.

The prevailing Israeli attitudes toward Kerry's current mission are threefold. The public is by and large apathetic; the political leadership is split between giving him a cold shoulder and publicly denouncing his ambitious plan, and the settlers are virulently attacking him.

Why would the Israeli public be indifferent to Kerry's plan for a two-state solution when in poll after poll, 2 out of every 3 Israelis support such a solution? Pollster Rafi Smith gave me the simple answer: Because they don't believe that Kerry can deliver it. Why? Because there is no credible Palestinian partner. Period.

Indeed, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' insistence on not recognizing Israel as a Jewish state leaves many Israelis doubtful whether any treaty signed now will truly be the end of the conflict. But Smith reminded me of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977 (I didn't need much reminder: I was there on the tarmac at Ben Gurion assigned to take care of his air crew).

When Sadat spoke in the Knesset, Smith told me, he had said harsh things about the need for Israel to pull out of all the territories gained in 1967. Yet people responded to his speech with ovations and tears of joy. His appearance in the Knesset was more important than what he had said.

Without such a gesture from the Palestinian leader, Israelis remain indifferent. In such cases, however, they could have gotten a cue from their leadership, as to how to react to Kerry's efforts: a signal that perhaps this is the best deal Israel can get, a reminder that if America washes its hands



SEBASTIAN SCHNEIER/AP

Israelis hold a sign depicting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and bearing the words "Personas Non Grata" during a march from the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim to the E-1 area on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem on Thursday.

from the region, Europe might unleash its anti-Israeli plans, and so on.

Except that the Israeli leadership itself is lukewarm. Nobody knows what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu really thinks, and most people believe that he is only buying time for his own political survival. Accepting Kerry's plan might mean a rebellion in his rejectionist Likud Party, and he is not perceived as someone capable of breaking away and forming a new party that will serve as a platform for pursuing bold policy like Ariel Sharon did before the disengagement from Gaza.

In the absence of a loud and clear message from the top, the loose cannons around Netanyahu have their free ride. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon, upon learning the details of the Kerry plan had this to say: "John Kerry must understand: It's not going to happen."

According to the Israeli Arutz Sheva, Danon went on to call the proposal "dangerous and detached from reality."

Did Danon's boss, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, sack him on the spot? Nothing of the sort. In a private talk with Shimon

Schiffer of Yediot Aharanot newspaper, Yaalon said that "[t]he American security plan presented to us is not worth the paper it's written on. ... It contains no peace and no security." As if this was not enough, he then added insult to injury: "The only thing that can 'save us' is for John Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us in peace."

That these people—who know more than most of us how deep the American commitment to Israel's security is—should talk like that is a disgrace.

Of course, there are differences of opinion, and when it comes to Israel's security, Israel as a sovereign state has the right to accept or reject any plan, and take any steps necessary to defend itself, even with the risk of confrontation with the United States. When in 1981 Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in Baghdad, it was condemned by the whole world, including its U.S. ally (never mind that in 1991, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney sent a satellite photo of the destroyed reactor to General Ivry, IAF commander in 1981, with a note: "With thanks and appreciation. You made our job easier in Desert

Storm").

In any case, differences should be ironed out behind closed doors, with civility, and perhaps with something Israelis, who have been the beneficiaries of American generosity for so long, obviously lack: modesty and gratitude.

Last but not least are the settlers. As reported by Reuters, they "have lampooned U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in a video campaign against his troubled quest for peace between the Jewish state and the Palestinians." In the YouTube clip they had produced, a buffoonish mock-Kerry describes Jerusalem as "holy to all religions: Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Klingsons and Hobbits."

That the State Department responded to this was a mistake. Israelis themselves should have condemned this ugly attack on a friend.

Surrounded by apathy, problematic leadership and quarrelsome settlers, some of us still wish Kerry success. After all, his plan is no different from the Clinton Parameters of 2000, and anyone who supports a two-state solution knows perfectly well that it will require painful concessions.

Like a good surgeon, Kerry is telling us the truth about the operation necessary to save us from one, binational state, where Israel might either lose its democracy or its Jewish nature. We should thank him, not badmouth him. I'm glad that no other than the hawkish Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman said on Friday that, "Kerry is [a] true friend of Israel. Friends shouldn't be turned into enemies."

As I said before, John Kerry is not the first U.S. secretary of state trying to broker peace between Israelis and Palestinians. He might, however, be the last. Future presidents, either out of growing isolationism, or just being fed up with the troublesome Middle East, or due to a decline of the Jewish lobby, or simply having enough of the Israeli ungratefulness, might reason: If the Israelis are so smart, let them sort it out themselves.

I hope I speak for many of the Israelis, silent as they may be, who pray: Carry on, Kerry.

Uri Dromi writes about Israeli affairs for The Miami Herald.

Russia easily takes gold medal for corruption in Sochi

By DAVID IGNATIUS

AMID the television extravaganza of the Sochi Olympics, I had a chance to visit last week with a Russian "whistle-blower" named Sergey Kolesnikov. Back in 2010, he had revealed what he claimed was a network of corruption that included a billion-dollar palace on the Black Sea allegedly built by wealthy businessmen for Vladimir Putin.

As with the athletes who are taking great risks in Sochi, the wonder with Kolesnikov is that despite the dangers, he's still on his feet. He hasn't been back to Russia since he made his allegations about Putin, in a December 2010 interview with me and a simultaneous open letter to then-President Dmitry Medvedev. He offered documents and photographs to support his tale of the wildly ornate Italian-style villa, supposedly built by cronies so that Putin could entertain VIPs in the run-up to the Olympics.

Kolesnikov's account was one of the first detailed inside exposures of the billionaires' club surrounding President Putin, and his allegations were later explored by The New York Times, the Financial Times and other publications. Putin's spokesman has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, char-

acterizing the charges as "nonsense" and "nothing but absurd."

Kolesnikov says he's as enthralled by the Olympics as anyone else. "It's a beautiful show of free competition among athletes, which millions love to watch," he says. But he contends that because of insider deals and gross overspending in Sochi, "once the athletic part is over, many questions will be unanswered" for Russians taxpayers who are left with the bills.

Russians are famous for their stoicism and determination to prevail. Usually we associate those qualities with Russian athletes, or determined soldiers on the battlefield. But Kolesnikov reminds me that this stubborn attachment to a cause is true for Russia's democratic opposition, too. The Putin regime has tried ferociously to suppress dissent, but the anti-corruption protesters and human-rights activists keep on coming. Their bravery is a reminder that democratic activism isn't a sprint, it's a marathon.

This feisty determination is epitomized by a young anti-corruption activist named Alexei Navalny. He famously called Putin's United Russia coalition "the party of crooks and thieves," and castigated him during Russia's 2011 parliamentary elections and 2012 presidential race. He was arrested

and convicted on criminal charges in 2013, but was freed by a nervous Putin government the day after he was sentenced. He said last April that he planned to run for president himself on a promise "not to lie and not to steal."

In this Olympic season, Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation has posted a funny assault on the Putin crowd on its website, sochi.fbk.info. Under the rubric, "Chumps of the corruption race," it awards sarcastic medals to Putin insiders in such categories as "Classic Embezzlement," "Verbal Freestyle," "Pairs Contracting" and "Skating the Figures." One Putin business chum is scored for receiving contracts for 30 Olympic projects; another is tagged for overseeing a bondodge that spent \$7 billion on a road-and-rail link that covered 30 miles.

Putin himself is lambasted on Navalny's site for having claimed, less than a year ago, that the Olympics would cost just \$6.5 billion, which was less than earlier estimates. "The main issue is to be sure nobody steals anything," Putin said at the time. That must bring a smile today to many Russian lips. Total spending is estimated at \$51 billion, making Sochi more than seven times as costly as the previous winter games in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The power of activists such as Navalny is that they appear to be fearless. They continue advancing despite intimidation, arrest and even imprisonment. We've seen a similar spirit on the streets of Kiev in Ukraine this winter. No wonder the Russians are worried. Once such a democratic movement gains momentum, it isn't deterred by threats; indeed, it seems almost to thrive on them.

Kolesnikov told me last week that after he made his allegations in December 2010, a Russian insider warned him, "Traitors don't live long." He says that he responded by asking how long those who betrayed the interests of Russia would live. As I wrote after our first meeting, "Kolesnikov is one of those brave souls a journalist meets occasionally, who decides to expose what he sees as wrongdoing, regardless of the personal risks."

The Olympic season is a time to celebrate courage and determination. Looking at that spirit in today's Russia, on the ice rink or in the street, I am reminded just how tough and unflinching the country's people can be when they are committed to a cause.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Rodman out of rehab: 'I'm not an alcoholic'

The Associated Press

Dennis Rodman checked into an alcohol-rehabilitation center to reevaluate his life, not give up drinking.

"I needed to decompress from all the things I was going through," Rodman said Friday by phone from Miami. "I was trying to get this game going and get everything going in North Korea. It was a lot."

Rodman recently spent three weeks in a New Jersey-based facility when he returned from his latest trip to North Korea. He organized a group of retired NBA players to travel to North Korea for that exhibition game. He suffered an angry meltdown during a CNN interview and also sang "Happy Birthday" to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the start of the friendly game.

Rodman said he will return to the rehab center every six months "to see where I'm at."

The 52-year-old Rodman, who won five championships with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls and was one of the NBA's fiercest rebounders and most colorful personalities, denied he was an alcoholic.

"I don't need to drink," he said. "I don't need to do anything. I went to rehab just to sort things out. That's it."

He said he could curb his drinking and did not have a problem because he doesn't drink every day.

"I'm not an alcoholic," he said. "An alcoholic drinks seven days a week. I don't drink seven days a week. I don't drink, I don't hurt nobody, I don't have no DUIs, nothing like that."

"I didn't go to rehab for drinking. There aren't too many people who quit drinking going to rehab. Not too many people can do that."

Rodman said he planned to return to North Korea and defended his friendship with Kim Jong Un.

"The people over there are not bad people," he said.

Rodman and Kim struck up a



KIRKTHOM F. DOZIER, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Former NBA player Dennis Rodman spent three weeks in a New Jersey-based rehabilitation facility "to decompress from all the things I was going through." He also says he's not an alcoholic.

friendship when the basketball-player-turned-celebrity first traveled to the secretive state last year.

He said he was honored to be able to play the game in the North Korean capital and called the event "historic." Some members of the U.S. Congress, the NBA and human rights groups, however, said he had become a public relations tool for North Korea's government.

Former Texas Tech QB loses year of eligibility

LUBBOCK, Texas — Former Texas Tech backup quarterback Michael Brewer has lost an appeal to avoid giving up a year of eligibility at either TCU or Texas.

The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reports that a five-member panel unanimously rejected Brewer's appeal Thursday after hearing his case to contact Texas and TCU. Texas Tech policy states that a player who transfers within the conference must sit out the next year and lose a year of eligibility.

Last month, Tech denied Baker Mayfield's appeal to transfer without restriction to Oklahoma.

Brewer, a redshirt sophomore last season, left the program in January.

Reds' Latos has surgery for torn knee cartilage

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Starter Mat Latos had surgery to repair

torn cartilage in his left knee on Friday while the rest of the Cincinnati Reds pitchers and catchers got physicals and worked out.

Their spring training started with a setback.

Latos is expected to be sidelined for about 10 days. He tore cartilage while throwing in Arizona a few days ago, and an MRI found the tear. He had arthroscopic surgery on Friday morning while his teammates were getting ready for the first workout of camp.

"It was an easy repair, a quick repair," general manager Walt Jocketty said. "Very minor surgery. He'll probably resume his throwing program in about 10 days."

Latos went 14-7 last season with a 3.16 ERA in 32 starts. He had surgery to remove bone chips from his pitching elbow at the end of the season and had recovered well from that operation. He felt something happen in the knee during one of his throws while he worked out on Tuesday.

When the knee was sore a day later, Latos went for an MRI that found the tear.

Bae up one stroke in Northern Trust Open

LOS ANGELES — Bae Sang-moon is off to another great start at the Northern Trust Open. The next step is a better finish.

Bae shot a 5-under 66, giving him a one-stroke lead over Aaron Baddeley and Robert Garrigus when the second round was suspended by darkness.

Baddeley, who won at Riviera three years ago, birdied his last four holes for a 65. Garrigus had a 67.

Dustin Johnson, who led after the first round at 5-under 66, opened with two birdies but never got any further. He had a 70 and joined Jim Furyk (68) among those three shots behind.

Bae was at 9-under 133. He was tied for the lead last year going into the weekend at Riviera but fell from contention.

In other golf news:

■ South Korea's Chella Choi set a new course record with a 10-under 62 and took a share of the lead after the third round of the Women's Australian Open on Saturday at Melbourne, Australia.

A day after Sweden's Anna Nordqvist broke the women's course record with a 64 at the par-72 Victoria Golf Club, Choi eclipsed that mark with two eagles and seven birdies.

Choi, who started the day eight shots behind overnight leader Caroline Hedwall of Sweden, was tied for first with 17-year-old Australian amateur Minjee Lee at 13 under 203.

Lydia Ko of New Zealand was two shots back in third place after shooting a 69. Suzann Pettersen of Norway (72) was three shots back in fourth place.

■ Defending champion Bernhard Langer shot an 8-under 64 on Friday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the ACE Group Classic at Naples, Fla.

Langer birdied three of his first holes in his bogey-free round on TwinEagles' Talon Course. The 56-year-old German star won the 2011 tournament and finished second behind Kenny Perry in 2012. Langer won the season-opening event in Hawaii last month for his 19th Champions Tour title.

Bob Tway was second. He birdied his last three holes, making a 60-foot putt on No. 8.

Olin Browne opened with a 66, and Duffy Waldorf and Kirk Triplett shot 67.

■ John Hahn had six birdies and an eagle in his back nine for a 10-under 61 to lead the Africa Open by two shots before the second round at East London, South Africa, was postponed by bad light on Friday.

American Hahn did finish after a 90-minute morning rain delay, and took just 28 strokes to come home after starting on No. 10 to go 16 under. He surged ahead of first-round leader Ricardo Santos, who shot a 5-under 66 to be 14 under overall.

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NFL

Bullying inquiry cites Incognito, 2 others

NFL-ordered report finds 'pattern of harassment'

By STEVE REED
The Associated Press

An investigation into the racially charged Miami Dolphins bullying scandal detailed widespread harassment in the team's locker room that extended beyond the two players at the center of the probe.

The NFL-ordered report stated there was a "pattern of harassment" committed by at least three players and extended to two linemen and an assistant trainer, all targets of vicious taunts and racist insults.

Lawyer Ted Wells released the report Friday, saying guard John Jerry and center Mike Pouncey followed Richie Incognito's lead in harassing Jonathan Martin, who left the team in October. They threatened to rape his sister, called him a long list of slurs and bullied him for not being "black enough."

In a statement emailed by a league spokesman, the NFL did not make any mention of possible punishment stemming from the case. The league only confirmed it had received the report and said it appreciated the Dolphins' cooperation with the investigation. Wells said he does not intend to comment further.

Martin is biracial, Incognito is white, and Jerry and Pouncey are black.

Martin's agent Kenneth Zuckerman said his client feels "vindicated" by the report.

"He feels a great sense of relief," Zuckerman told The Associated Press. "Jonathan Martin is a great man and he's only shown me that he is very honest since the day I met him. He loves football and is eager to get back on the field, regardless of what team he plays for."

Incognito's attorney, Mark Schamel, released a statement calling Wells' report "replete with errors" and said that Martin "was never bullied by Richie Incognito or any member of the Dolphins' offensive line."

Incognito was suspended in November, but Pouncey and Jerry remained starters throughout the season.

The report mentioned another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer who also routinely came under attack from the trio. Neither was identified in the report.

The report chronicled Martin's struggle to deal with a "pattern of harassment," in-

“To a great extent, Incognito dictated the culture. We doubt that matters would have gotten so out of hand had Incognito not set a tone on the offensive line that made extremely vulgar taunting a typical form of communication.”

NFL report on investigation into Dolphins bullying case

cluding emotional text exchanges with his parents and a description of him crying in the bathroom after one particularly painful attack.

Martin also told investigators that he "believed that trying to engage in a physical confrontation with these three — whom he viewed as a united group — would only make matters worse."

The inquiry said Martin was taunted and ridiculed almost daily. After Martin left the team, Incognito boasted about "breaking Jmart" in a notebook the linemen used to tally fines and bonuses among themselves. When the investigation began, Incognito asked another player to destroy the book, saying "They're going to suspend me."

The other harassed player was "subjected to homophobic name-calling and improper physical touching," while the assistant trainer, who was born in Japan, was subjected to racial slurs.

"It was not difficult to conclude that the Assistant Trainer and Player A were harassed, but the questions raised in Martin's case were more complex, nuanced and difficult," the report says.

Although Wells concluded that Martin was abused by three teammates, the report said "they did not intend to drive Martin from the team or cause him lasting emotional injury."

Evaluating Martin's claims was difficult, "given his mental health issues, his possible heightened sensitivity to insults and his unusual, 'bipolar' friendship with Incognito," the report said.



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

In this Aug. 9, 2013, file photo, Miami Dolphins center Mike Pouncey, left, guard Richie Incognito (68) and tackle Jonathan Martin (71) set up to block during the first half of an NFL preseason football game. Martin was subjected to "a pattern of harassment" by three teammates, according to a report ordered by the NFL. The report said Incognito, who was suspended by the team in November, and fellow offensive linemen John Jerry and Pouncey harassed Martin.

"Nonetheless, we ultimately concluded that Martin was indeed harassed by Incognito, who can fairly be described as the main instigator."

The report comes about three months after the league hired Wells to investigate the case, which prompted a national debate about hazing and workplace bullying.

"To a great extent, Incognito dictated the culture," the report said. "We doubt that matters would have gotten so out of hand had Incognito not set a tone on the offensive line that made extremely vulgar taunting a typical form of communication."

Dolphins offensive line coach Jim Turner didn't attempt to stop the behavior and even took part in some of the taunting of "Player A," the report said. Several people interviewed told investigators that Turner gave Player A a male sex doll as a gag gift around Christmas 2012. Turner told investigators he did not remember the incident, but investigators said they did not believe him.

However, the report found no evidence that the Dolphins front office or head coach Joe Philbin was aware of the conduct Martin found abusive.

Ex-NFL star charged with rape

By LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors charged former NFL safety Darren Sharper on Friday with raping and drugging two women in California and disclosed he is under investigation in connection with five more drug-related rapes in three other states.

Sharper briefly appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court, where his arraignment was postponed until Feb. 20 at the request of his lawyers. They issued a statement saying he would be exonerated.

Prosecutors then filed a motion to increase Sharper's bail to \$10 million and outlined details of investigations involving him in Las Vegas, Tempe, Ariz., and New Orleans.

Sharper has not been charged in the other jurisdictions.

In the bail motion, Los Angeles County Investigator John Maccharella described a pattern in which the former football star met women at clubs or parties and lured them to a hotel room, where they were allegedly drugged and raped.

The motion says the incidents happened in the past five months, with two occurring within a day in Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

After conferring with police in other jurisdictions, Maccharella said in the bail motion that the first assault followed an event for New Orleans Saints football players in Sept. 22, 2013.

Maccharella said he was told a woman went to a New Orleans bar with Sharper, consumed an alcoholic beverage provided by him and blacked out. She awoke the next morning while being sexually assaulted, the bail motion stated, noting that an exam later showed

Sharper's DNA was present.

The Los Angeles charges were based on incidents on Oct. 30, 2013, and Jan. 14, 2014, beginning at a West Hollywood nightclub. Sharper allegedly met two women each time, invited them to a party then said he had to stop at his hotel.

In the October incident, each woman was given a shot of an alcoholic beverage before blacking out, and one later awoke to find the other being sexually assaulted, the charging documents state.

In January, a woman awoke and suspected she had been assaulted, the documents state.

Similar scenarios played out on Jan. 15 in Las Vegas and on Nov. 20, 2013, in Arizona, the bail motion states.

If convicted in the California case, Sharper could face more than 30 years in state prison.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Arizona's Aaron Gordon, left, gets his shot blocked by Arizona State's Jordan Bachynski during the second overtime of Friday's game in Tempe, Ariz.

AP Top 25 roundup

Arizona State upsets Arizona in double OT

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State went away from Jermaine Marshall until it needed him most. He came through and so did Jordan Bachynski with another game-saving block.

When it was over, the Sun Devils' fans rushed the court twice — beating your biggest rival in double overtime is that much fun.

Fighting through a defensive-dominated game, Arizona State pulled out arguably the biggest home win in school history, knocking off No. 2 Arizona 69-66 in double overtime Friday night.

Marshall scored eight of his 29 points in the second overtime and Bachynski swatted T.J. McConnell's drive with 6 seconds left, leading to a raucous midcourt celebration that had to restart because more time was left on the clock.

"No words can explain the joy that we feel right now," said Bachynski, who had 13 points, eight blocked shots and seven rebounds. "Tonight was huge for us."

It took a while to get there.

With both teams struggling offensively all night in a physical game filled with fouls, neither team could take control.

Arizona State (19-6, 8-4 Pac-12) won it by turning to Marshall and relying on Bachynski.

Marshall, who missed the first game against Arizona, went over 20 minutes without a field goal, but made a pair of three-pointers in the second overtime, then scored on a drive with 14 seconds left to put the Sun Devils up 67-66.

Arizona (23-2, 10-2) didn't call a timeout and got the ball into the hands of McConnell for a final shot. The Wildcats' point guard hit some big shots throughout the game, but his final attempt was sent back by Bachynski, leading to a breakaway dunk by Jahii Carson that sent the fans pouring onto the court.

One problem: There was still time left on the clock. Less than a second, but enough for the Wildcats to get off a good shot.

Nick Johnson got a good one, too. It hit

the rim and bounced away, though, sending the fans back onto the court and the Sun Devils to victory over second-ranked Arizona, the highest-ranked opponent they have ever beaten at home.

Arizona won the first game over Arizona State in a rout and its first two games without injured forward Brandon Ashley.

The Wildcats tried to eke out another victory behind their defense, but came up short behind poor perimeter shooting and from the free-throw line.

Arizona shot 4-for-16 from three-point range and 16-for-30 on free throws, negating a 54-35 advantage in rebounds, including 18 on the offensive glass.

McConnell led Arizona with 17 points and five rebounds. Kaleb Tarczewski had 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Aaron Gordon had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Wildcats, who shot 35 percent overall.

No. 13 Louisville 82, Temple 58: Montrezl Harrell scored a career-high 22 points and the visiting Cardinals built a 30-point first-half lead to rout the Owls.

Russ Smith added 15 points to help Louisville (20-4, 9-2 American Athletic Conference) improve to 7-1 in its last eight games.

Wayne Blackshear finished with 13 points, Luke Hancock scored 11, and Harrell had 10 rebounds and four blocks in the game postponed a day because of a snowstorm.

Anthony Lee and Will Cummings led Temple (6-17, 1-10) with 14 points apiece. The Owls shot 37.3 percent from the field to drop their fourth straight game and fall into a tie for last place in the conference with Central Florida.

No. 23 SMU 77, Rutgers 65: Nic Moore scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half and the visiting Mustangs won as a ranked team for the first time in 29 years, beating the Scarlet Knights.

Nick Russell added 16 points to help SMU (20-5, 9-3 American Athletic Conference) reach the 20-win plateau for the second time in 13 years.

Myles Mack had 17 points, and Kadeem Jack scored 15 for Rutgers (10-15, 4-8).

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NBA



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Knicks' Carmelo Anthony said Friday that he "knows for a fact" that New York will not trade him.

Melo rules out trade

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Carmelo Anthony said Friday he knows "for a fact" the New York Knicks won't trade him, and he added he'd be open to staying with the team for less than a maximum contract.

Anthony has said he plans to become a free agent this summer. The NBA's trade deadline is Thursday, but Anthony ruled out any chance the Knicks would move him to avoid the possibility of losing him for nothing in July.

"I know for a fact I'm not being traded," Anthony said at the NBA's All-Star weekend. "There's two things: I know for a fact I'm not being traded and I'm not going in there and saying I want to be traded."

New York can pay him around \$30 million more than any team, but Anthony said he wouldn't insist on making the Knicks do it.

"As far as the money, it doesn't really matter to me. If I go somewhere else I get paid, if I stay in New York I get paid," he said. "My concern is being able to compete on a high level, at a championship level coming at this last stretch of my career."

The Knicks aren't doing it now. They are 20-32, one of the league's biggest disappointments after winning the Atlantic Division last season.

Anthony is having a strong season, however, ranking second in the league with 27.3 points per game, while also averaging 8.6 rebounds.

He needs more help on the team, but it will be tough to get because the Knicks are already so far over the salary cap. Not having to pay Anthony all of the more than \$120 million he would be eligible for could help.

"I talk to people all the time. I always say if it takes me taking a pay cut, I'll be the first one on Mr. Dolan's list saying, 'Take my money, let's build something stronger,'" Anthony said, referring to Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan.

Drummond brightest of Rising Stars

Pistons forward goes for 30-25 in Challenge win

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Andre Drummond had 30 points and 25 rebounds to lead Team Hill to a 142-136 victory over Team Webber on Friday in the NBA Rising Stars Challenge, part of the All-Star weekend festivities.

A 41-percent free-throw shooter during the regular season, the Detroit Pistons forward went 6-for-8 from the line, including a pair with 29 seconds left after chasing down Bradley Beal's missed free throw to give his team a five-point lead.

Cleveland's Dion Waiters had 31 points, mostly coming during a 1-on-1 duel with New York's Tim Hardaway Jr. in the second half. Beal finished with 21 for Team Hill, picked by former NBA star Grant Hill.

Hardaway scored 36 points for fellow former NBA star Chris Webber's squad. Philadelphia rookie Michael Carter-Williams had 17 points.

The annual game that began as a matchup of top rookies and later turned into a contest against second-year players now mixes the rosters. That's probably a good thing, since this year's crop of first-year players is so underwhelming.

Drummond and Waiters are second-year players, while Hardaway and Carter-Williams are rookies.

Portland's Damian Lillard, also a second-year player, had 13 points, five rebounds and five assists in the victory, making him -for-1 during the busiest All-Star weekend ever.

Lillard, last season's NBA Rookie of the Year, will take part in five events — three more on All-Star Saturday and the All-Star game



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Team Webber's Kelly Olynyk (41) and Team Hill's Andre Drummond vie for a loose ball on Friday. Drummond led Team Hill to a 142-136 win with 30 points and 25 rebounds.

on Sunday.

All-Stars such as Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard and Kyrie Irving watched the Rising Stars game, with Irving leaping to his feet at one point after watching Waiters, his Cavaliers teammate, try to take over the game with about eight minutes to play.

Waiters then clinched his duel with Hardaway when he knocked the ball free for a rare defensive highlight in the game, nailing his second straight three-pointer to give his team the lead for good at 126-124 with 2:44 left.

Only two of the top 10 picks in the 2013 NBA Draft were invited to this game — No. 2 Victor Oladipo and No. 9 Trey Burke.

Kevin Hart cedes celeb MVP to education secretary

NEW ORLEANS — Film star Kevin Hart's reign as the best celebrity basketball player of NBA All-Star weekend has come to a humbling end, even if the fans in attendance thought otherwise.

The 5-foot-2 Hart had seven points and four assists for the West team in a 60-56 loss to the East squad Friday night, but fans voted him the game MVP for a third straight year.

Rather than accept the trophy, Hart insisted it go to U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, right, who had 20 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for the East.



David Stern elected to Hall of Fame

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — David Stern is going from the NBA commissioner's office to the Hall of Fame.

The recently retired Stern was elected Friday to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and will be enshrined with the class of 2014 on Aug. 8 in Springfield, Mass.

Stern was on a ski trip to Colorado on Friday with his wife while the NBA was holding its first All-Star weekend without him in charge since 1983. New Commissioner Adam Silver and many other league employees who worked under Stern attended the press conference.

"I wanted to be here for David because I knew he wasn't in New Orleans this weekend. Just to be here to share the experience and then relay it back to him what the feel in the room was," said Silver, who worked under Stern since 1992.

"As I said earlier, while David is a modest guy, I know he was moved by the fact this was all happening so quickly, and he has always told me he doesn't like to reflect back sort of



GEORGE BRIDGES/MCT

Recently retired NBA Commissioner David Stern was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday and will be enshrined with the class of 2014 on Aug. 8 in Springfield, Mass.

on his life or his career, but this will certainly force him to. And I know this is an emotional moment for him and it's an emotional moment for everybody who has worked with him over these years."

Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond, Kevin Johnson and Spencer Haywood are hoping to be part of the class. They were chosen as finalists, with the full class to be unveiled April 7 during the NCAA Final Four.

Stern retired on Feb. 1 after exactly 30 years as commissioner, during which he brought the league to its greatest success. Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Hall of Fame board, said the Hall hopes to have a special spot to display a tribute to Stern.

Stern was elected by the contributors committee. Also directly elected to the Hall of Fame were Lithuania star Sarunas Marciulionis by the international committee, former Indiana Pacers coach Bob "Slick" Leonard by the ABA committee, former New York Knicks player Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton by the early African-American pioneers committee, and former Temple star Guy Rodgers by the veterans committee.

OLYMPICS

Scoreboard

Medals count

At Sochi, Russia
(6 of 7 events, Saturday, Feb. 15)
(50 of 51 total events)

Nation	0	5	B	Tot
Russia	4	6	5	15
Netherlands	4	4	6	14
United States	4	4	6	14
Norway	4	4	3	11
Germany	4	3	2	12
Sweden	3	0	7	10
Switzerland	1	5	2	8
Austria	2	4	1	7
China	2	0	5	7
Italy	2	0	5	7
Belarus	2	0	2	4
France	3	0	2	5
Japan	1	2	1	4
Canada	1	2	1	4
Poland	3	0	0	3
South Korea	1	1	1	3
Czech Republic	1	1	1	3
Latvia	1	0	2	3
Britain	0	1	2	3
Finland	0	2	0	2
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1

Hockey

Women

Group A

	W	L	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Canada	3	0	0	0	9	11	2
United States	2	1	0	0	6	10	5
Finland	0	2	0	0	2	5	9
Switzerland	0	2	1	1	3	18	8

Group B

	W	L	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Russia	2	1	0	0	6	6	3
Sweden	2	1	0	0	6	6	3
Germany	1	2	0	0	3	5	7
Japan	0	3	0	0	0	1	7

Saturday, Feb. 15

Group A: United States 3, Finland 1
Group A: Canada 5, Switzerland 0
Group B: Sweden 5, Japan 0
Group B: Russia 4, Germany 1
Monday, Feb. 16
Group A: United States 9, Switzerland 0

Group A: Canada 3, Finland 0
Tuesday, Feb. 11
Group B: Sweden 4, Germany 0
Group B: Russia 2, Japan 0

Wednesday, Feb. 12
Group A: Finland 4, Switzerland 3, OT
Group A: Canada 3, United States 2
Thursday, Feb. 13
Group B: Germany 4, Japan 0
Group B: Russia 3, Sweden 1

Saturday, Feb. 15
Quarterfinals
Sweden 4, Finland 2
Switzerland 2, Russia 0

Sunday, Feb. 16
Semifinals
Germany vs. Finland
Japan vs. Russia

Monday, Feb. 17
Semifinals
United States vs. Sweden
Canada vs. Switzerland

Tuesday, Feb. 18
Classification Round
Fifth Place
Switzerland 2, Russia 0
Bronze Medal
Gold Medal

Men
Group A
W L OTW OTL Pts GF GA

United States	1	1	0	0	5	10	5
Russia	1	0	0	1	4	7	5
Slovenia	1	0	0	1	5	6	6
Slovakia	0	2	0	0	0	2	10

W L OTW OTL Pts GF GA
Finland 2 0 0 0 0 6 14 5
Canada 2 0 0 0 0 6 9 1
Norway 0 2 0 0 0 2 2 9
Austria 0 2 0 0 0 2 2 9

Group C
W L OTW OTL Pts GF GA
Sweden 2 1 0 0 0 6 5 2
Switzerland 1 1 0 0 0 3 1 1
Czech Rep. 1 1 0 0 0 3 1 1
Latvia 0 2 0 0 0 0 2 5

Wednesday, Feb. 12
Group C: Sweden 4, Czech Republic 2
Group C: Switzerland 1, Latvia 0

Thursday, Feb. 13
Group B: Finland 8, Austria 4
Group B: Russia 5, Slovenia 2
Group A: United States 7, Slovakia 1

Friday, Feb. 14
Group C: Czech Republic 4, Latvia 2
Group C: Switzerland 5, Switzerland 0
Group C: Canada 6, Austria 0

Saturday, Feb. 15
Group A: Slovenia 3, Slovakia 1
Group A: United States 3, Russia 2, SO
Group C: Switzerland vs. Czech Republic

Group C: Sweden vs. Latvia
Sunday, Feb. 16
Group B: Austria vs. Norway
Group A: Russia vs. Slovakia
Group A: Slovenia vs. United States

Group B: Finland vs. Canada
Alpine skiing
Women's super-G
Saturday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
(Start position in parentheses)

1. Anna Fenninger, Austria, 1:25.52.
2. (22) Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany,



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Sweden's Charlotte Kalla, front, crosses the finish line to win gold ahead of Finland's Krista Lahtenmaki, silver, during the women's 4x5K cross-country race in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

1:26.07.
3. (16) Nicole Hosp, Austria, 1:26.18.
4. (20) Lara Gut, Switzerland, 1:26.25.
5. (19) Tina Mazze, Slovenia, 1:26.28.
6. (30) Fraenzi Audenblatten, Switzerland, 1:26.79.
7. (6) Fabienne Suter, Switzerland, 1:26.88.
8. (14) Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, Calif., 1:27.04.
9. (18) Leanne Smith, North Conway, N.H., 1:28.35.

Other U.S. Finishers
NR. (7) Laurence Ross, Bend, Ore., DNF.
NR. (29) Stacy Cook, Mammoth, Calif., DNF.

Skeleton

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Men
Final Ranking

1. Alexander Trebakov, Russia, 3:44.29.
2. Martins Dukurs, Latvia, 3:45.10.
3. Matt Antoine, Prairie du Chien, Wis., 3:47.26.
4. Tomass Dukurs, Latvia, 3:47.58.
5. Sergei Chudinov, Russia, 3:47.59.
6. Nikita Tregubov, Russia, 3:47.62.
7. John Fairbrairn, Canada, 3:48.12.
8. Kristian Bromley, Britain, 3:48.17.

Other U.S. Finishers
15. John Daly, Smithtown, N.Y., 3:49.11.

Speedskating

Saturday
At Sochi, Russia
Men's 1500

1. Zbigniew Brodek, Poland, 1:45:06.
2. Koen Verweij, Netherlands, 1:45:09.
3. Denny Morrison, Canada, 1:45.22.
4. Denis Yuskov, Russia, 1:45.37.
5. Mark Tuitert, Netherlands, 1:45.42.
6. Mayard Bolko, Norway, 1:45.48.
7. Brian Hansen, Glenview, Ill., 1:45.59.
8. Sverre Lund Pedersen, Norway, 1:45.66.

Other U.S. Finishers
11. Shani Davis, Chicago, 1:45.98.
22. Joey Mantia, Ocala, Fla., 1:48.01.
37. Jonathan Knott, Champaign, Ill., 1:50.19.

Short track

Saturday
At Sochi, Russia
Men's 1000

1. Han Tianyu, China, 1:29.33.
2. Semen Elistratov, Russia, 1:29.429.
3. Victor An, Russia, 1:29.325.
4. Vladimir Grigorev, Russia, 1:25.399.

Other U.S. Finishers
1. Slinkie Knept, Netherlands, 1:25.611.
NR. Sin Da-won, South Korea, PEN.
Women's 1500
Final A
1. Valerie Maitrea, Canada, 2:24.711.
2. Jessica Smith, Melvindale, Mich., 2:25.877.
3. Marie-Eve Drolet, Canada, 2:25.870.
4. Bernadett Heidum, Hungary, 2:26.004.

5. Mathieu Pierron, France, 2:26.066.
6. Veronika Windisch, Austria, 2:26.296.

Final A
1. Zhou Yang, China, 2:19.140.
2. Shim Suk Hee, South Korea, 2:19.239.
3. Arianna Fontana, Italy, 2:19.416.
4. Jorien Ter Mors, Netherlands, 2:19.656.
5. Emily Scott, Springfield, Mo., 2:19.462.
NR. Kim Alang, South Korea, PEN.
NR. Li Jianrou, China, DNF.

Cross-country skiing

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Women's 4x5K Relay

1. Sweden (Ida Ingemarsdotter, Emma Wiken, Anna Haag, Charlotte Kalla), 53:02.7.
2. Finland (Anne Kyllonen, Aino-Kaisa Saarinen, Kerttu Niskanen, Krista Lahtenmaki), 53:03.2.
3. Germany (Nicola Fessel, Stefanie Boehler, Claudia Nystad, Denise Herrmann), 53:03.6.
4. France (Aurore Jean, Celia Amyonier, Anouk Faivre Pinot, Coraline Hugue), 53:47.7.
5. Norway (Heidi Weng, Therese Johaug, Astrid Ihlenhoff Jacobsen, Marit Bjergen), 53:56.6.
6. Russia (Julia Ivanova, Olga Kuziukova, Natalia Zhukova, Yulia Tikhonova), 54:06.3.
7. Poland (Kornelia Kolankowska, Justyna Kowalczyk, Sylwia Jaskiewicz, Paulina Maciuszek), 54:38.3.
8. Italy (Virginia de Martin Toporovic, Elisa Brocard, Marina Pillier, Iliana Debernardi), 55:19.9.
9. United States (Kikkan Randall, Ann Chapple, Sadie Bjornsen, Wrenthorpe, Wash., Lili Stephen, East Montpelier, Vt., Jessie Diggins, Arton, Minn.), 55:23.4.

Saturday's scores

Curling
Men
Sweden 8, Germany 4
Switzerland 9, Denmark 3
Canada 7, Britain 5
China 9, Russia 5

Women
Canada 8, Japan 6
Britain 10, South Korea 8
Sweden 7, United States 6
Canada 5, Russia 3
Switzerland 8, Britain 6
Denmark 9, China 6

Records

At Sochi, Russia
Through Feb. 15
Ski jumping
Men
5,000 - Sven Thoen, Netherlands, 6:10.76, Feb. 1, 2014 (Old Record: 6:14.60, Kramer, Vancouver, Feb. 13, 2010).

5,000 - Sven Thoen, Netherlands, 6:10.76, Feb. 1, 2014 (Old Record: 6:14.60, Kramer, Vancouver, Feb. 13, 2010).

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Medals roundup

Sweden's women win cross-country relay

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — When Charlotte Kalla started her anchor leg of the women's cross-country relay, the two leaders were 25 seconds ahead and four-time Olympic champion Marit Bjergen was chasing close behind.

In other words, she was skiing for bronze. But for Kalla, bronze wasn't good enough.

The Swede erased a massive deficit on the final leg and then won a three-way sprint Saturday to give her country its first gold medal of the Sochi Olympics.

"I just wanted to go for gold," Kalla said. "I knew that if I right really hard it was possible to cross the finish line first."

It was Sweden's first victory in the women's 4x5-kilometer relay since 1960, and came on day when heavy favorite Norway only finished fifth.

Kalla was 25.7 seconds behind Finland's Krista Lahtenmaki and Germany's Denise Herrmann after the final exchange but gradually erased the deficit and caught up to the two leaders going into the stadium.

On the final straight, the Swede overtook both and beat Lahtenmaki by 0.5 seconds. Herrmann and Germany settled for bronze.

"Charlotte was skiing like a god," said Anna Haag, who skied the third leg for Sweden. "I love these girls."

While Kalla provided a spectacular finish to the race, the most surprising performance came from Norway.

The Norwegian women had not lost a relay since 2009 and entered the race as huge favorites, with a team that featured the top four skiers in the overall World Cup standings. But they fell behind on the second leg and by the time Bjergen set out on the fourth, they were 3.3 seconds back. Bjergen couldn't get much closer, and shut down over the last lap to save energy. Norway finished 53.6 seconds behind Sweden, with France taking fourth.

"It is tough to see because we are so good in relay, we have always been so good, many seconds before the other girls," said Heidi Weng, who skied the first leg for Norway. "And today others were better than us."

Kalla became the first athlete to win three medals in Sochi, after taking silver in both the skiathlon and the 10K classical race. Kalla took gold in the 10K freestyle race in Vancouver, but this was her most impressive Olympic performance yet.

Sweden seemed to have lost its chance at a gold medal after Haag couldn't keep up with Finland's Kerttu Niskanen and Germany's Claudia Nystad on the third leg. But Ida Ingemarsdotter, who skied Sweden's first leg, knew

that with Kalla as the anchor, there was still a chance.

And with Sweden's king and queen looking on, Kalla immediately began a relentless pursuit that saw her cut the deficit to 13.2 seconds with 2.5K left. She kept closing the gap on the last lap until she joined the leading duo shortly before going into the stadium.

Short track

SOCHI, Russia — Viktor Ahn threw his arms up in the air as he crossed the finish line first. Just behind him Vladimir Grigorev was celebrating, too. The Russians claimed Olympic gold and silver in the men's 1,000-meter short track Saturday, igniting a raucous crowd.

Ahn and Grigorev raced to celebrate with their coaches on the sideline as the mostly Russian crowd roared horns and waved red, white and blue flags. Ahn earned his sixth career Olympic medal, and second of the Games.

Ahn then skated to victory ice, got down on all fours and kissed the ice on the letter C in the logo of the Sochi 2014. He got up and hugged Grigorev before embracing Sin Da-won of South Korea, who was disqualified.

Ahn delivered his adopted country's first Olympic short track medal with a bronze in the 1,500. Born in Seoul, he previously competed for South Korea as Ahn Hyun-soo, winning three golds and a bronze at his first two Olympics in 2002 and 2006. A career-threatening knee injury in 2008 forced him to miss the Vancouver Games. Ahn became a Russian citizen in 2011, saying South Korea didn't provide him the support he needed.

Slinkie Knept of the Netherlands took the bronze, a rare short track medal for the Dutch, who are better known as the world's dominant long track speedskating team. Knept got into the final after Lee Han-bin of South Korea was disqualified for impeding the Dutch skater in the semifinals.

■ Zhou Yang of China won the women's 1,500-meter short track gold medal, successfully defending the Olympic title she won four years ago.

Zhou overcame a false start to win Saturday at the Iceberg Skating Palace. Shim Suk-hee of South Korea earned the silver. Arianna Fontana of Italy took the bronze, earning her second short track medal of these Games. Fontana was silver medalist in 2006.

There was a three-skater scratch in the final involving 500 gold medalist Li Jianrou of China, Kim Alang of South Korea and Emily Scott of Springfield, Mo. All three wiped out in the turn with seven laps to go.

Scott finished fifth while Kim was disqualified and Li didn't finish.

OLYMPICS

Men's skeleton

Tretiakov takes gold with ease

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — One year after a giant meteor streaked across Russia's sky, Alexander Tretiakov flashed by.

Accelerating down his home track lined from top to bottom with flag-waving, chanting countrymen, Tretiakov won the Olympic gold medal in men's skeleton on Saturday night, blasting away from the world's top sliders who were no match for his breakneck speed and precise driving.

Tretiakov completed four trips down the Sanki Sliding Center track in 3 minutes, 44.29 seconds, easily beating Latvia's Martins Dukurs (3:45.10), who settled for silver again after having gold slip from his hands four years ago in Vancouver.

Matt Antoine of Prairie du Chien, Wis., won the bronze, the first skeleton medal for an American man since Jimmy Shea's gold in 2002. John Daly of Smithtown, N.Y., entered the final run in fourth place, but had his sled jump from the grooves in the starting ramp and dropped all the way to 15th.

With cries of "Ro-ssi-ya, Ro-ssi-ya," echoing off the mountain and toward the ski resort area down below, Tretiakov won the host nation's fourth gold of the Sochi Games.

And with his out-of-this-world performance, Tretiakov, the bronze medalist in Vancouver, will receive a unique medal.

On Feb. 15 last year, a giant meteorite zoomed over Russia's Ural Mountains, causing a sonic boom and exploding over the city of Chelyabinsk. A piece of the space rock was recovered by scientists and Tretiakov's gold — as well as the other six won on the anniversary — will be embedded with a fragment from the asteroid.

A fitting reward for the "Russian Rocket."

After two blistering runs on Friday, Tretiakov began the third heat with a 0.56-second lead over Dukurs, who had been reminded of his near miss for gold in Vancouver all week but insisted he would be satisfied with leaving Russia with any medal.

Dukurs led after three runs in Whistler, but the two-time world champion was caught in the final heat by Canada's Jon Montgomery, who like Tretiakov, had a home-ice advantage and won by 0.07 seconds.

Skeleton's best slider for several years, Dukurs, who won six of eight World Cup events this season, had learned the hard way that no lead is safe, and nothing's guaranteed until the last man is down the mountain and across the finish line.

"It's sports," Dukurs said. "Anything can happen."

Tretiakov, though, quickly put to rest any thought of a comeback by Dukurs.

Matching his start record (4.47) for the third consecutive heat, he completed his third run in 56.28 seconds, and as Dukurs waited for his turn to go he had to know deep down that the race was over.

Dukurs, who has won 24 of the past 28 World Cup events, managed to trim 0.02 seconds off Tretiakov's margin on his third run, but needing to make up more than a half-second on his last descent was asking way too much — even for someone U.S. coach Tuffy Latour said "may go down in the books as the all-time greatest skeleton athlete."



United States goalie Jonathan Quick, right, makes a save against Russia forward Ilya Kovalchuk during a shootout in Saturday's game at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. The U.S. won 3-2 in a shootout.

Men's hockey

Oshie, Quick lead US past Russia

St. Louis Blues forward scores four shootout goals in heroic effort

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — T.J. Oshie brainstormed while he skated to center ice, desperately trying to come up with one last move to end an epic shootout. He had already taken five shots at Sergei Bobrovsky, and the Russians were still even.

Yet Oshie was chosen for the U.S. men's hockey team with just such a situation in mind, and the shootout specialist concocted one last clever goal to silence an arena filled with screaming Russian fans.

Oshie scored four times in the shootout and put the winner between Bobrovsky's legs in the eighth round, leading the United States past Russia 3-2 Saturday in the thrilling revival of a classic Olympic hockey rivalry.

"I was just thinking of something else I could do, trying to keep him guessing," said Oshie, the St. Louis Blues forward. "Had to go back to the same move a couple times, but I was glad it ended when it did. I was running out of moves there."

International rules allow the same player to take multiple shots after the first three rounds of a shootout, and U.S. coach Dan Bylsma leaned on Oshie's array of shot shots and change-of-pace approaches to the net. Oshie scored on the Americans' first shot before taking the last five in a row, going 4-for-6 against Bobrovsky and disappointing a Bolshoy Ice Dome crowd includ-



American forward T.J. Oshie scored four shootout goals against Russian goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky on Saturday.

ing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I aged a couple of years in that shootout," Bylsma said. "We had other guys that are capable, but T.J. was the guy who was going well. It seemed like he was going to score every time he went."

Oshie's final shot was a beauty: He

threaded a forehand right through Bobrovsky's pads, the puck punching the back of the Russian net emphatically enough to pop the water bottle on top into the air.

"At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?'" U.S. captain Zach Parise said. "But he did a good job ... That's hard to do, to get in a goalie's head and throw him off a little bit."

Oshie was among the final selections for the U.S. roster, and though the 27-year-old from Warroad, Minn., has never had a 20-goal NHL season, he leads American-born players with seven shootout goals this season.

The U.S. men are only interested in the one that all but wrapped up an automatic berth in the quarterfinals next week.

Cam Fowler and Joe Pavelski scored in regulation for the Americans in the marquee game of the preliminary round. Jonathan Quick made 29 saves and stopped five attempts in the shootout as the U.S. improved to 2-0.

Captain Pavel Datsyuk scored two goals in regulation and another in the shootout for the Russians, who rallied from a third-period deficit in a fast-paced game. Russia also had an apparent goal waved off with 4:40 left because Quick's net came off its moorings.

"The U.S. team is a good team and a good test for us," Datsyuk said. "We played good, but the result is not good."

OLYMPICS



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Austria's Anna Fenninger skis over a jump Saturdays during the women's super-G in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Fenninger won the race, finishing .55 seconds ahead of Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch.

Fenninger takes super-G, adds to Austrians' legacy

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — The super-G was running so extreme that seven of the opening eight racers slid, tumbled, careened and glided off the course, unable to finish.

In all, 18 of 49 racers failed to make it across the finish line.

Leave it to the Austrians to solve a tricky course designed by one of their coaches. This nation, no matter how tough the track, just seems to shine in this discipline.

Anna Fenninger became the third Austrian in a row to win the women's super-G at the Olympics, finding a smooth way through the uneven course Saturday. She finished in 1 minute, 25.52 seconds, edging Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany by 0.55 seconds. Nicole Hosp of Austria was third.

With that, the Austrians are off to a soaring start at the Sochi Games, leading the Alpine standings with four medals. That already matches the total this skiing-proud nation had the entire time in Vancouver four years ago.

Pressure's now off, right?

"We have a lot of pressure — that is our sport," said Austrian coach Florian Winkler, who designed the challenging course that skiers only had a brief time to inspect.

Starting 17th and wearing a cheetah-themed print on her hel-



ALESSANDRO TROVATI/AP

Switzerland's Dominique Gislin, the downhill co-champion, was one of the 18 of the 49 racers that didn't make it across the finish line.

met, Fenninger flew along the course, hardly bothered by the bumps. She made sure the super-G title remained with Austria after Andrea Fischbacher took gold in 2010 and Michaela Dorfmeister did so at the 2006 Turin Games.

Racers from Austria have dominated this Olympic event since the super-G began at the 1988 Calgary Games. The country has now won eight of a possible 24 medals.

"I don't know why we can win so much medals (in super-G)," Fenninger said. "I think we just like it."

The combination of soft snow and a tight course design by Winkler had early skiers struggling to just make it down. A super-G course typically has tighter turns

than a downhill. The part giving the skiers the most trouble came after the final jump, when they couldn't slow down enough to clear a series of tight gates.

The rate at which skiers were going off course led Kjetil Jansrud of Norway to post on Twitter: "I am speechless for the moment. Looks like it's difficult, but this is crazy. #DNFBonanza."

Pre-race favorites Lara Gut of Switzerland and Tina Maze of Slovenia were fourth and fifth. Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein didn't compete after hurting her right leg in a crash during downhill training last weekend.

Julia Mancuso of the United States said she became hesitant after watching so many others before her struggle on the course. She wound up eighth.

Men's speedskating

Brodka knocks off big names in 1,500

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Zbigniew Brodka knocked off Shani Davis and all the other big names in the men's 1,500 meters, capturing Poland's first gold medal in Olympic speedskating Saturday. Brodka won the closest 1,500 in Olympic history over Koen Verweij of the Netherlands, who skated in the final pair. The two were initially shown on the scoreboard as tied for the top spot, but when the time was broken down to the thousandths, the victory went to Brodka.

His time was 1 minute, 45.006 seconds. Verweij settled for silver in 1:45.009.

Brodka, who had skated in the 17th of 20 pairs, thrust his arms in the air when he saw the "1" appear beside his name — the first major victory of his career. Verweij appeared to scream an explosive and glided around the inside of the track, shaking his head in disbelief, his long blond hair flowing behind him. Even during the flower ceremony, he found it hard to muster a smile, despite giving the Dutch their record-tying 13th medal of these games.

The bronze went to Canada's Denny Morrison, his second medal in Sochi.

The 29-year-old Brodka is a firefighter and former short track skater who placed 27th in the 1,500 at the Vancouver Games four years ago. Though he had put up solid World Cup results in recent months, he had never won a major international event and there was little to indicate he would break through in Sochi.

Now, he's got the biggest prize of all.

It was another tough day for two-time silver medalist Davis and the rest of the American team, who hastily went through a suit change because of concerns their new high-tech attire was actually slowing them down.

The U.S. got approval to switch

back to the suits it wore during a successful World Cup season in the fall, but it sure didn't help. Brian Hansen of Glenview, Ill., was the top U.S. finisher in seventh.

The 31-year-old Davis, runner-up in the king of races at the last two Olympics, faded badly over the final lap. The Chicago native wound up 11th in what could be the final individual event of his brilliant Olympic career. The only race he has left in Sochi is team pursuit.

"I feel the damage of the suit was already done," Davis said, clearly blaming the turmoil for the team's dismal showing at these Olympics. "It took its toll. I spent energy in ways that I wouldn't have done normally."

It was a surreal day for the Americans, who arrived in Sochi touting their new Under Armour "Mach 39" suit as the fastest in the world, only to begin having doubts about its effectiveness just a few days into the competition.

After some adjustments that didn't make much of an impact, the U.S. petitioned the International Skating Union to go back to its previous suit, worn at World Cup meets and the country's Olympic trials in late December. The ISU didn't sign off on the suits until some hasty alterations that were still going on just hours before the race, reducing the size of the company's logo to conform to Olympic rules.

No one could blame the suits for the latest debacle. Joey Mantia of Ocala, Fla., finished 22nd and Jonathan Kuck of Champaign, Ill., was 37th out of 40 skaters.

The Americans, it would seem, simply weren't prepared to compete at the level being shown by other countries, especially the Dutch. The Netherlands now has as many speedskating medals as East Germany's haul at the 1988 Calgary Games, with five more events to crush the previous record.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Gold medalist Zbigniew Brodka of Poland holds his nation's flag Saturday while celebrating his victory in the men's 1,500-meter speedskating race at Sochi, Russia.

SPORTS



Sun Deviled

Bachynski's game-saving block lifts
Arizona St. over No. 2 Arizona | **Page 27**



WINTER OLYMPICS

Sochi Oshie!!

Shootout specialist
comes through in clutch
for Americans | **Page 30**

Team USA forward T.J. Oshie reacts
after scoring the winning goal against
Russia goaltender Sergei Bobrovski
in a shootout at the Winter
Olympics on Saturday.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



Pistons' Drummond impresses with 30 points, 25 boards | **Page 28**